

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HICKS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, John Hicks, of Leisuretowne, New Jersey. John is a community leader without equal.

Having risen through the ranks of firefighters in Philadelphia starting in 1947, he became Battalion Chief of Battalion 13 in 1978. A true professional, his career in public service as a firefighter is rarely equaled.

On relocating to Southampton Township, New Jersey in 1979, John became involved in the transportation program, driving Leisuretowne residents to shopping centers, doctor appointments, and more.

John was first elected to Southampton Council in 1981, and still serves today. He has been both dedicated and adamant with regard to the Big Hill Landfill project, and is active as liaison between the Leisuretowne military veterans and Southampton Township.

John is very active, in a subdued way, accomplishing a great deal quietly, with dignity.

He is truly deserving of this tribute, and I am certain he will remain committed to serving the community for many years to come.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ARDMORE

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Ardmore in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary this year.

The Rotary Club of Ardmore was founded October 21, 1925 by J. Elmer Watts and Albert L. Reinhold and is currently the third largest Rotary Club in District 7450 of South-eastern Pennsylvania. The 111 members of the Ardmore Rotary contribute about \$25,000 annually to community organizations and donate thousands of hours of time to public service initiatives.

Community service is an integral part of the Rotary's mission. The club was instrumental in the reopening of the Main Line YMCA in the 1930s. Club members travel weekly to the George Gordon Meade Elementary School to tutor students and help promote literacy. The Rotary conducts an annual Holiday Basketball Tournament fundraiser at Lower Merion High School and an annual pancake breakfast to benefit the Merion Fire Company. During the Holidays, the Ardmore Rotary raises thousands of dollars for local charities.

The Ardmore Rotary extends its charitable aims overseas as well. Frequently, Rotarians

travel to countries like India and Mexico to care for sick children and provide crucial medicinal vaccines to those in need.

The residents of Montgomery County are fortunate to benefit from the services provided by the Rotary Club of Ardmore. It is an honor to recognize such an extraordinary group of individuals on their 75th Anniversary.

IN OBSERVANCE OF LOVELIFE WEEK, OCTOBER 16 TO 22, 2000, BY THE LOVELIFE FOUNDATION, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to observe the third anniversary of the death of teenager LoEshe' Lacy, and to recognize the great accomplishments of the LoveLife Foundation, founded by her father in her memory.

On October 27, 1997, LoEshe' Lacy was an innocent victim to a shooting across the street from her high school. The name LoEshe' is Ibo/Nigerian and means "Love Life." Donald Lacy founded the LoveLife Foundation in her honor to work with at-risk youth, and to help garner a greater appreciation for the value of human life.

In its brief three-year history, the projects and successes of the LoveLife Foundation have been both numerous and varied. One particularly successful program is the LoveLife Arts and Media Training Academy. This program trains youth to produce television, radio, and theatrical performances that specifically address violence and its devastating effects on the community. The public service announcement, "Precious Gift", produced through this program, has received several national television awards, including a National Public Television Award, a Bay Area Cable Ace Award, and a Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award. The student written and performed play, "Legacy for LoEshe'" has aired repeatedly on local television.

The Mayor of Oakland has credited the LoveLife Foundation's efforts with contributing significantly to a 32-year low in the city's murder rate in 1999.

The LoveLife Foundation will observe LoveLife Week October 16 through 22, 2000. The Foundation requests that people observe this week by performing random acts of kindness to family, friends, and even perfect strangers.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by the dedication and commitment Mr. Lacy and members of the LoveLife Foundation have shown to improving Oakland and preventing more senseless deaths like that of LoEshe' Lacy.

I want to thank the LoveLife Foundation for its efforts to increase appreciation for the value of human life, and I encourage people everywhere to honor this great organization by observing LoveLife Week.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN HOLLINGSBED TAYLOR, HEAD START BUREAU ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of the Clinton Administration, as we reflect on our accomplishments and unfinished work, we can only look with great pride and admiration to the Head Start program and all it has become for America's children. The President and Congressional leaders may try to take credit for the increase in the numbers of children enrolled, the new expansion to serving pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers, and the increase in program quality and accountability. But the real champion of Head Start was Helen Hollingshed Taylor.

Helen looked out for the nation's children, and their world is better for her efforts. Debrah and I feel fortunate to have known and worked with Helen during these past seven years and will miss her fun spirit, her gentle nudge, her wisdom, and her passion to do right by all children.

Born in Fort Valley, Georgia, and raised in Cincinnati, Helen came to Washington to attend Howard University in 1964. Two years later, she received a National Institute of Mental Health fellowship to the Institute for Youth and Community Studies at Harvard. In 1973, she received a Masters degree in early childhood education from Catholic University.

Helen most recently served as Associate Commissioner of the Head Start Bureau in HHS. In this position, she ran a vital program that provides educational services to needy children who otherwise start school a step behind many of their peers. Today, the Head Start program serves 865,000 pre-school children of low-income families with an annual budget exceeding \$5 billion. Due almost entirely to Helen's tireless advocacy, Head Start enrollment expanded by more than 145,000 during her tenure, which began in 1994 and lasted until her death on October 3rd of this year.

Helen's personal courage and unflagging commitment to the cause of helping children was remarkable. During the last several years of her life, she waged a fierce battle with cancer, yet continued to work nearly every day. One of her most prized projects was the Early Head Start Program for infants, toddlers and pregnant women, which under her leadership expanded from 68 programs in 1995 to 525 programs now serving 39,800 children. Without her energy and vitality, the Early Head Start program would be far less developed today.

Helen's commitment to quality in Head Start is as much a part of her legacy as expansion of the program. As Associate Commissioner, she spearheaded an initiative on performance measures; revitalized the program's research

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

agenda; established a new monitoring system; and revised the training and technical assistance system to strengthen ongoing efforts to improve quality.

Helen also worked hard to create community partnerships by fostering linkages between Head Start programs, community colleges and other institutions of higher education. She established partnerships between Head Start and child care through expansions of full-day, full-year services for children of parents in school, training and employment.

Prior to her appointment as Associate Commissioner, Helen was Executive Director of the National Child Day Care Association in Washington, D.C., where she oversaw a network of more than 20 school centers providing services to more than 1,300 children each year.

Her career is studded with awards, among them the prestigious National Public Service Award, an honor bestowed only on those individuals who have made an important difference in public administration over a sustained period of time.

In a tribute last week to Helen's lifetime achievements, HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said:

I shall miss Helen Taylor deeply. Helen believed in the potential of every child to learn. She devoted her life to Head Start and the education and healthy development of young children. Millions of children have benefited from her vision, compassion, and inspiration. She was a remarkable, vital, courageous woman who spent every day giving with all her heart to make the lives of children better. Her immeasurable contributions to early education will endure for years to come.

Secretary Shalala said it just right. I want to add my words to hers and say thank you, Helen. America's children will miss you, too.

IN HONOR OF HIS DIVINE HOLINESS
PRAMUKH SWAMI
MAHARAJ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of the worldwide BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Santhsa). He visits the Greater Cleveland area on Tuesday October 17.

HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Lord Swaminarayan, the spiritual figurehead of the BAPS. At the age of 79, he continues to demonstrate the highest order of caring for others. In his role as religious leader, he has visited over 15,000 villages, 250,000 homes and personally counseled over 610,000 people. He also had the distinguished honor of delivering an inaugural address at the recent Millennium World Peace Summit at the United Nations. His compassion for humanity and his altruistic tendencies have formed the basis for a wide range of noble projects. All his work is united by the common goal of improving the condition of humanity as a whole. As such he is an example to us all.

BAPS is a remarkable organisation which has reached out and touched over one million followers across the world. It has over 6,800

international centers for youth, women and children. Under the leadership of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS has built the largest traditional Hindu Mandir outside India. In a nation of religious freedom and diversity, we should pay our respect to such outstanding work for the betterment of humanity.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today to honor the arrival of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj to the Greater Cleveland area.

LUPUS RESEARCH AND CARE AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments of 2000, of which I am a proud co-sponsor. This important legislation will provide vital funding to strengthen research activities and extend medical care for poor or uninsured individuals suffering from this disease.

While lupus affects nearly 2 million Americans, this is a disease that disproportionately affects women, and especially African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American women. Women are nine times more likely to develop lupus than men. I have women friends who have been diagnosed with lupus, thus I know first hand how devastating this disease can be on individuals and families.

In Metropolitan Kansas City and the state of Missouri combined, there are approximately 29,565 persons diagnosed with lupus. Fortunately, the Kansas City and Missouri Chapters of the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., among other groups, coordinate excellent support services for those affected by this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of H.R. 762, because there is not yet a cure for lupus, and there are still too many people diagnosed with this disease who do not receive the medical care and support they need. I applaud the commitment of this Congress to enact this important measure.

HONORING JOHNSON & JOHNSON ACTIVITIES CENTER INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Andrew and his wife DeMonica Johnson as they celebrate the grand opening of their new non-profit elder care facility in the 25th District of Texas. The Johnsons have named their center Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc., with emphasis on the word "activities." The Johnsons' vision is to offer a place where senior citizens obtain more than just adult day care; they are offered a chance to continue to enjoy life and grow through participation in volunteer activities, and they can receive access to services to help overcome some of the obstacles that older Americans face.

The Johnsons, who are members of the South Post Oak Baptist Church which also lies in my District, have designed Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc. to accommodate life in the new millennium. As people are living longer than ever, the Johnsons are offering an alternative for the thousands of seniors in our area who possess time, talent, and the inclination to share their gifts with the community. There are many opportunities for senior citizens to share their experience and expertise to help others, such as caring for latch-key children, aiding at-risk seniors and their caregivers, counseling small business owners and working in our national and local parks.

In addition to offering a day activity program that includes volunteer activities, Johnson & Johnson will also provide rides for seniors to health care services; run errands; visit home-bound seniors; counsel seniors on health, nutrition, legal and financial concerns; and serve as an ombudsman to resolve resident facility disputes and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

Just having a place for a caretaker to drop off a senior for a day can make all the difference. The Johnsons know first-hand what it is like to experience the exhaustion and helplessness that can accompany the noble duties of caring for an elderly friend or relative. Running errands, catching a child's ball game or recital, even paying bills can become impossible when a relative or loved one needs constant care. When Andrew Johnson's own mother needed him, he was there to help. But when he needed a day off to tend to his own life, there was nowhere for his mother to go. That is when the dream to open an adult day care and activities center began.

Johnson & Johnson Activities is designed to assist individuals in acquiring and/or improving self-help and socialization skills. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Johnsons' premise that senior citizens have much to share and bestow on a community willing to help and listen. I commend them on their new Activities Center, and thank them for their dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 519, S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 520, H.R. 208, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, and to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 521, H.R. 762, Lupus Research and Care amendments. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 6, I missed rollcall vote 516, final passage of the FY 2001 Transportation appropriations conference report (H.R. 4475). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". I also missed rollcall vote 517, the rule for H.R. 3244, the Sexual Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and rollcall 518, final passage of H.R. 3244. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

RECOGNITION OF JAMES G. MILLS, THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize James G. Mills of Fort Wayne, Indiana in my district for his recent election as chairman of the board for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. Mr. Mills was elected on June 17, 2000 and officially took over in late July.

In 1985, Mr. Mills joined Three Rivers Federal Credit Union as president and chief executive officer. Three Rivers provides important options for my constituents and as such has been an asset to Northeast Indiana. Between 1985 and 1995, the number of branches increased from one to eight with the number of member companies increasing from 125 to more than 700. Individual membership soared from 15,000 to 65,000 plus.

Along the way, Mr. Mills worked to promote the growth of the community as well as the Credit Union. In 1995, Three Rivers FCU was able to secure Indiana's first Community Development Credit Union Expansion Charter to open the field of membership and provide financial services to less served parts of the community. This innovation was the result of his near two-years of work with local city officials, the economic development offices of Fort Wayne, and the National Credit Union Administration. Most recently, Mr. Mills facilitated an initiative in the area of inner city financial literacy training for an under-served group that also happens to be a new part of the FCU's field of membership. I strongly commend him for his efforts to empower those who are less economically advantaged through knowledge and the broadening of financial services.

In the role of Chairman of NAFCU, Mr. Mills will be leading the trade association that represents federal credit unions. I look forward to working with him and America's credit unions as we work to benefit families and communities, and congratulate him on this national recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD HAMMERMAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Richard Hammerman of Congregation B'Nai Israel, Toms River, New Jersey, who is celebrating his 25th year with the synagogue.

Much of B'Nai Israel's vibrancy and outreach comes from the influence of Rabbi Hammerman, who came to B'Nai Israel in 1975. He is credited by many as the driving force which helped make the synagogue as it is today.

Through the years, the congregation has enjoyed many additions and accomplishments, among them the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the stained glass windows depicting scenes from Israel, and the synagogue expansion in 1983. Despite difficulties during the early days, the congregation persevered, and today it is an active member of both the Jewish community and the community at large, including a thriving Talmud Torah which sends all Hebrew high school graduates to Israel, participates in community programs to provide moderate housing, and in an interfaith group to help house the homeless.

Rabbi Hammerman is described as a "real mensch," a person who genuinely cares about each member of the congregation. He is considered a man of the highest ethics, one who is warm and welcoming.

Having grown from 225 members upon Rabbi Hammerman's arrival to its current membership of 500, his warmth and caring are cited as the strength behind the success of Congregation B'Nai Israel, and for the respect the congregation has earned from the community.

May Rabbi Richard Hammerman, Rabbi of Congregation B'Nai Israel, continue to serve the community for many years to come.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stewart Middle School of Norristown, Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary. On September 8, 1925, Stewart Junior High opened its doors to 916 pupils and has been a model of academic excellence for the past 75 years.

The current Stewart Middle School was the first junior high school in the Norristown School District and currently enrolls more than 650 students from diverse backgrounds. In 1926, the first Student Council was established and continues to provide real leadership and community involvement for the students.

In 1981, Stewart was selected as one of only two schools statewide to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's School Climate Improvement Project and has been recognized by the PDE and the Senate of Pennsylvania for its efforts to improve math-

ematics and reading scores. As an advocate of combining academic and special area instruction, Stewart Middle School applies a "school within a school" concept to learning. This allows students to learn in smaller classes with an emphasis on group learning. Stewart should serve as a model for schools throughout the country.

I am pleased to celebrate this momentous occasion with the Stewart Middle School community. They have much to be proud of during their first 75 years and I expect even more accomplishments to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF ITALIAN FESTA AND THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE EAST BAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay, for its presentation of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, which took place on September 16 and 17, 2000, at Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

Italian Festa is one of the largest celebrations of Italian heritage and culture on the West Coast. This year's visitors listened to accordion, opera and other traditional Italian music, while watching costumed dancers perform. Visitors were also treated to a demonstration by Tony Gemignani, the "World Pizza Toss King" and a food demonstration with Andy LoRusso, "the Singing Chef."

A photographic display detailing the Italian legacy in the California gold fields provided a fascinating local history lesson for visitors. "Nostra Storia—The Italian Legacy in the Mother Lode" tells the story of one of the earliest and most important, but often unrecognized, groups of people to settle in the California foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

In the tradition of Italian street festivals, Italian Festa provided a great selection of Italian specialties such as sausage and peppers, biscotti, polenta, Sicilian pastries, hand-made ice cream, tortas and cannoli. The food was prepared in the kitchen of the East Bay's Social Clubs, which donate a portion of the profits from beverage sales to a scholarship foundation for Italian-American Students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay for its efforts to celebrate Italian and Italian-American culture and history. On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate the Foundation on the great success of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, and wish the organization luck in continuing to educate the community about Italian heritage and culture for years to come.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague, Congressman Bruce F. Vento, who passed away on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, at the age of 60, after 23 years of dedicated service as the Representative from Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District.

Congressman Vento was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1977. Over the course of his 12 remarkable terms in office, Congressman Vento has taken a leadership role on environmental, housing and banking reform issues. As chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for over 10 years the Congressman was enormously successful in protecting hundreds of thousands of acreage from Minnesota to Alaska and American Samoa. Through his role as ranking member on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, he has worked tirelessly to modernize our financial services industry while continuing to safeguard consumer privacy. Finally, as an active, vocal member of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, Congressman Vento will always be remembered for his admirable fight to end homelessness in America. The most fitting tribute that we, his colleagues, can pay Congressman Vento is to follow in his footsteps and continue his commendable work on behalf of the environment, the homeless, and banking reform.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in remembering one of our own, the Honorable Bruce F. Vento. He will be sorely missed by myself and all members of this House. I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends during this difficult time.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support and as a co-sponsor of the Ryan White CARE Act, which is a life-saving piece of legislation. Persons with HIV/AIDS deserve the medical support services provided through the grants and programs included in this measure. Although the rate of HIV infection per year is decreasing in America, there are still over 40,000 new infections per year. We must continue our national efforts to prevent future transmissions and improve the quality of life for those living with AIDS.

To date, the Ryan White Care Act has helped provide the latest drug therapy to more

than 100,000 poor people, reduced AIDS mortality by seventy percent, and decreased mother-to-child transmission of HIV by seventy percent. It is clear that this legislation is successful, and I believe the measure before us strengthens our national assault on this disease.

My home state of Missouri received over \$15 million dollars for FY 1998 under the Ryan White CARE Act. These funds have helped those living with HIV or AIDS, through investments in medication and vital support services. The legislation before us today contains a provision on partner notification, which I believe is essential to decreasing the spread of HIV and reducing the transmission of all sexually transmitted diseases. I am concerned with the racial disparities in the incidence of HIV infection in Missouri, and specifically in Kansas City. This measure will hopefully make strides in reducing the incidence of HIV in both minority communities as well as among women and youth, who are especially vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of passage of the Ryan White CARE Act. Our support sends a message that HIV/AIDS is a fully recognized public health problem, and has our commitment to protect all vulnerable persons from this devastating disease.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act. Almost all Members agree that S. 2438 significantly increases government safety regulation in the safest sector of America's transportation industry. I commend the Senate for swiftly and overwhelmingly passing this legislation, making pipeline safety legislation up to the House.

I would like to begin with the safety record in the pipeline industry. According to Office of Pipeline Safety statistics, 76 unforgettable, tragic fatalities were reported for liquid and gas pipeline accidents from 1986 to 1999. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, 10,772 equally tragic fatalities resulted from accidents involving large trucks in 1997 and 1998 alone. One could easily say that the current pipeline transportation system, which transports explosive, hazardous materials, is hundreds of times safer than the transportation system that carries the large majority of America's economic output. However, everyone knows a "good" safety record is not enough. We must always keep working to improve the status quo.

Some of my colleagues will argue that this is an "industry bill" and is actually a fake. I respect their desire to appear independent, but I strongly disagree. Clearly the U.S. Senate, including many particularly independent Senators, feels that this bill significantly increases public safety. The bill strengthens reporting by a factor of 420. Spills over 2,100 gallons are reported now, spills over 5 gallons would be reported under S. 2438. The bill increases

daily fines by a factor of 20 (\$25K to \$500K). The pipeline industry is part of the fundamental energy base of our economy and has a strong safety record overall. It would be unwise and unjust to disproportionately attack an industry that is vital to the economy and significantly safer than the predominate mode of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, for those concerned with pipeline inspection, I would like to remind them that S. 2438 will provide much needed momentum for the issuance of DOT mandatory testing requirements, and sets a deadline of December 31, 2001. The bill authorizes funds to develop and implement these regulations. If S. 2438 is passed and signed, every interstate pipeline operator will be required to submit a detailed, integrated safety program to the DOT. The bill also provides for research and development into new inspection techniques.

In summary, this bill provides higher standards, stiffer enforcement, and authorizes over \$170 million to make it possible. The bill is supported by the Secretary of Transportation, the U.S. Senate, and a large bipartisan group of my colleagues.

I sympathize with the opposition to this bill. However, in this diverse body, we must sometimes accept imperfect legislation without as much opportunity for input as we would like. I believe that this bill is a large step in the right direction on pipeline safety. I also believe that this bill does not place the blame for accidents on individual employees. Section 14, "Operator Assistance in Investigations", allows the DOT to direct the suspension of an employee that directly and substantially contributed to an accident. The employee may return to work if they are later cleared of blame or are retrained. The legislation does not state that an employee on the scene is culpable or an automatic suspect.

This is our last chance to improve public pipeline safety this year. Do not wait for further accidents to move on this issue. I urge all my colleagues to support the improvement of pipeline safety.

FAIR TAX TREATMENT FOR INSURANCE AGENTS' TERMINATION PAYMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a small business tax relief measure that will assist thousands of insurance agents throughout this country as they prepare for retirement.

Many exclusive insurance agents who leave or retire from their jobs receive what is known as a "termination payment" under a contractual agreement with their respective insurance companies. These payments are paid for intangible assets, including the agent's "book of business" and goodwill, and are usually spread out over a series of years.

Currently, there is confusion about the tax treatment of these termination payments, which has caused some IRS field agents to question the capital gains treatment of these payments. My bill, the "Fair Tax Treatment for Insurance Agents' Termination Payments Act

of 2000," will make it clear that these termination payments are for the sale or other disposition of intangible capital assets and therefore should be subject to capital gains treatment. A clarification of current law is needed to ensure the correct result and prevent unknowing IRS agents from subjecting innocent insurance agents around the country to attack and audit on an issue that has no basis for controversy.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill and work with me to clarify the law to ensure that insurance agent "termination payments" are subject to capital gains treatment for Federal income tax purposes.

TRIBUTE TO POLONIA SPORT CLUB, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of Polonia Sport Club, Inc., of Franklin, Wisconsin.

Polonia Sport Club was founded to provide an opportunity for recent Polish immigrants to the Milwaukee area to gather for social activities and sporting events—mainly soccer games—and keep alive and flourishing the traditions of their homeland. Today, Polonia Park, located on West Loomis Road just west of Highway 100 in the Milwaukee suburb of Franklin, boasts 23 beautiful acres of parkland and soccer fields, a shaded picnic area and a quaint traditional Polish chapel. The grounds are utilized by young and senior citizens alike, and range from ethnic Polish groups to youth and adult weekend soccer tournaments attracting players and their families from throughout the Midwest.

The members of Polonia Sport Club have truly witnessed a revival of its original intentions of soccer being a unifying outlet for immigrants to the Milwaukee area to the game's present-day emergence as the fastest growing youth participatory athletic event in the US.

My family and I have had the privilege of attending and hosting more than a few events at Polonia Park over the years and have always been impressed with the old-world charm of the park's grounds and hospitality offered by the park's managers.

On November 4, the founders, active members and guests of Polonia will celebrate the club's 50th anniversary with a banquet at the new Polish Center of Wisconsin. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize this event by bringing Polonia Sport Club's many attributes to the attention of the United States Congress.

To the members of Polonia Sport Club, I offer my sincere congratulations on your first 50 years and best wishes for the future. Sto lat.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DORIS MILLER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legisla-

tion that would allow the awarding of a Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller. This recognition is long overdue to a man who served his country with distinction and who performed valiantly during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Doris Miller, born and raised in Waco, Texas, enlisted with the Navy as a Mess Attendant in 1939 at the age of 20. This was one of the few positions available at the time to black sailors in the country's segregated military. Within four months, he was assigned to the battleship U.S.S. West Virginia, stationed at Pearl Harbor.

On the fateful day of December 7, 1941, Doris Miller was collecting laundry when Japanese aircraft attacked. The ship's commanding officer, Captain Mervyn Bennion, had been hit in the stomach by shrapnel. Doris Miller dragged his captain to a place of greater safety. Then, without any prior training, Miller manned a machine gun on the ship's deck. He shot down at least two of the 29 Japanese planes that were lost by the attackers that day, and Miller may have hit up to four others.

Doris Miller continued to serve his country in the Navy during World War II. However, in 1943, he and 654 shipmates were killed in the line of duty when the Japanese sank the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Liscome Bay* near the Gilbert Islands.

Unfortunately, like other African Americans who served in the military during World War II, Doris Miller's acts of valor have never been fully recognized, and some of the awards that were bestowed upon him were only given grudgingly. Initially, Doris Miller's actions were not publicized until three months after the Pearl Harbor attack. Then, he was only given a letter of citation by the Secretary of the Navy—the lowest of awards for duty. Doris Miller was finally awarded the Navy Cross, but only after a public campaign by civil rights organizations brought about critical attention in the press. However, Doris Miller was not decorated with the nation's highest honor—the Congressional Medal of Honor. In fact, no African American who served in World War II received the Congressional Medal of Honor until seven Army veterans were given the award in 1997.

The legislation that I introduce today would waive the time limitation specified in current law for the awarding of military decorations in order to allow the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller for his heroic actions during World War II, so that a long-awaited honor may finally be bestowed upon this deserving individual.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth men's and women's basketball teams embarked on a twelve-day trip to Portugal in order to participate in the 10th Annual Amadora International Basketball Tournament 2000. Two years earlier, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth had hosted the Por-

tuguese National Junior Team, and as a result the Portuguese Basketball Federation invited both the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth teams to compete in this year's tournament. Both teams competed well, with the men's basketball team finishing in second place. This type of athletic event further highlights the strong cultural ties between the Greater New Bedford/Dartmouth Area and Portugal. Men's basketball coach Brian Baptiste, Women's basketball coach, Lynn Sheedy and the Athletic Director Robert Mullen should be commended for their efforts in encouraging this type of exchange which brought pride to Southeastern Massachusetts and allowed young men and women to experience, first hand, a culture that is so prevalent in this area.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDDYSTONE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 for 100 years of dedicated service to the residents of Eddystone, Pennsylvania.

The Eddystone Fire Company, chartered on January 29, 1900, was actually organized in 1895. Some thirty-six men gathered one January evening in 1895, in the old lighthouse hall in Eddystone Village. By the time they went home the volunteer fire company had been founded. The original by-laws were adopted February 14, 1895 and the first officers were elected.

The first piece of fire apparatus, which consisted mainly of fire hose on a hand-drawn reel, was purchased shortly after the group was organized. It was housed in the old Town Hall building, on the corner of Saville Avenue and 12th Street. As new pieces of equipment were purchased during the years they too were housed in this building.

Early in 1954, a new firehouse was built in the old Town Hall. When it was completed, the fire apparatus was moved to its new quarters, and the old Town Hall was torn down to make way for the new borough hall.

The firefighters of Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 have an impressive record when it comes to fire fighting. The company has fought such spectacular blazes as the Boyer Lumber Yard fire, the Eddystone Ammunition Plant explosion, the Remington Hotel fire, Tollins Furniture store blaze, the Baldwin Paint Shop fire, the Eddystone High School fire and more recently the Sun Oil truck explosion and fire.

The fire company is a volunteer organization and is on 24-hour call for fire, ambulance and water rescue search and recovery services. Aside from a modest appropriation from the borough, the fire company is supported through the efforts of its members and the Ladies Auxiliary. The ambulance service is made up of men and women who are thoroughly trained in first aid and now includes emergency medical technicians. These services are available to all residents of the borough.

Today the Eddystone Fire Company is a member of the Ridley Township Fire Board, a

sophisticated network of telephone and radio equipment, which handles calls automatically and keeps a record of every alarm called into the company. Many in the Borough have a direct alarm hook-up to the firehouse which gives prompt notice of a potential industrial fire.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their lives, to the safety of all Eddystone residents as well as surrounding communities. As a former fire chief in Marcus Hook, I am aware of the risks firefighters face each day, under intense pressure, in life or death situations. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, courage and dedication of Eddystone Fire Company members who continue to reflect the same true spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Eddystone Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

UPON THE DEATH OF ROBERT K. PILLSBURY, DEDICATED MINNESOTA COMMUNITY LEADER AND VISIONARY ENVIRONMENTALIST

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to salute a remarkable and visionary public servant from the Lake Minnetonka community in Minnesota who passed away recently. Robert K. Pillsbury of Minnetonka, Minnesota, passed away October 5, 2000, after a long illness. Bob will be sorely missed by all of us who admired and respected his dedicated public stewardship and his love and devotion to his faith, family, friends, and country.

By any measure of merit, Bob was one of our nation's best and brightest—a gifted business leader, civic leader and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Bob Pillsbury loved his country and was a true patriot, serving a grateful nation with honor and great courage during World War II as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesotans called him "Mr. Lake Minnetonka." Bob lived on the shores of Lake Minnetonka and there wasn't a more dedicated, vigilant defender of the lake than Bob Pillsbury. He was relentless in the amount of time, energy and talent he devoted to protecting Lake Minnetonka for both current users and future generations.

Bob started the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol on Lake Minnetonka. The Water Patrol has made a huge, life-saving difference in providing safety measures on the surface of this busy, metro-area lake, and it has served as a model for law enforcement agencies all around the nation with jurisdiction over navigable waters.

A warm and friendly man with a great wit, Bob Pillsbury represented his community on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District for many years. His hard work on that citizens'

panel led to many innovative practices to clean up and protect Lake Minnetonka, a highly used lake located in the midst of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Bob's bold vision produced environmental policies that will be followed for years to come.

With Bob Pillsbury, no detail went overlooked. He was always looking for ways to keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful. One of Bob's favorite crusades was his plan to require dock owners to use green boat canopies rather than white, striped and multicolored ones, all the better to blend the intrusion of development into the natural environment. Mr. Speaker, the resolution never passed, but there are more green canopies on the lake than ever before, including mine.

Bob Pillsbury was a highly successful stockbroker because he believed in people and his clients believed in him. He was a man of great integrity and he was a stakeholder in his community in so many ways. He was an original member of the City of Minnetonka's Charter Commission and a long-time member of the Minnetonka Planning Commission.

Bob was an active member of the American Legion and the Zuhrah Shrine Temple, as well as the Fox and Hounds and Lafayette Clubs.

Bob was also a great fan of University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Football. For 25 years, he organized charter flights to out-of-town Golden Gopher football games and did not miss a Golden Gopher game—home or away—for 25 years. He was one of the biggest Gopher football fans ever. Despite failing health, Bob continued to watch every game in recent years at the Hillcrest Health Care Center, where he lived the past 5 years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wonderful family: his lovely wife of 58 years, Elizabeth M. Pillsbury; his sons, Robert, Jr. (wife Tody), and Charles (wife Linda); and his daughter, Sandra (husband David), as well as his four grandchildren and their spouses, and his step-grandson and his spouse and family.

TRIBUTE TO A.L. "PETE" SINGLETON

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of the most truly outstanding staff people with whom I have served here in the People's House. Pete Singleton is about to retire as Staff Director of the Ways and Means Committee for the second time, and I know that all the Members of the Committee will miss him dearly.

Pete first served his country as a Marine in World War II. Pete joined the staff of the Committee in 1970 as Deputy Minority Staff Director after having two previous, successful careers—one in journalism as a reporter and editor of several papers including the Washington, D.C., STAR, and one for the then U.S. Steel Company.

He quickly mastered two of the most difficult matters under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee, Social Security and International Trade. In 1981, he became Minority Staff Director and held that position until 1988 when he first retired. During that period he wrote several books and served on the Quad-

rennial Advisory Committee on Social Security and on the Social Security Advisory Board. Eight years later, I asked him to return to the staff and he became Majority Staff Director, the position he holds today.

Pete has made significant substantive contributions to the Committee and the country, especially in the area of Social Security. It was he, in 1977, who drafted the Minority Social Security proposals, most of which later became law. Most recently, he oversaw the Committee's intensive efforts during action on the historic 1997 Balanced Budget Act and Taxpayer Relief Act, as well as legislation to repeal the Social Security earnings limit.

This history of his dedication to the Members of the Committee and the House is, by itself, sufficient to warrant our thanks and best wishes for the future. But, frankly, that pales by comparison with the quality of his service. Pete Singleton is one of the most loyal people I have ever known. His first thought has always been "How does this impact the Committee?" He is one of the hardest working staff persons I have known, and has sacrificed much of his personal life for the Committee. He possesses a sharp wit and a quick mind. He is a true gentleman in every sense, and a wonderful human being. Pete is a fine leader and helped me assemble an outstanding staff which has, for the most part, remained with the Committee during both his tenures.

As he leaves the Hill for the second time, he does so with the gratitude of his Chairman and all the members of the Ways and Means Committee with whom he has worked. He will be greatly missed, but he can derive great satisfaction in the knowledge of his contribution to the Committee, the House of Representatives, and his beloved country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2000

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to modernize and strengthen the Social Security Administration in preparation for the oncoming baby boom retirement. This legislation completes the spirit of the laws Congress has enacted three times since 1983—taking the last of Social Security expenditures off-budget and removing SSA's administrative funds from budgetary restraints which have nothing to do with Social Security's needs.

In preparation for the upcoming retirement wave, Congress and the administration clearly want Social Security resources dedicated only to Social Security to ensure promised benefits are paid. Ensuring responsive public service delivery by the Social Security Administration is part of that promise because worker's hard-earned payroll taxes directly support the running of the agency.

A recent report by the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board concluded

There is a significant gap between the level of services that the public needs and that which the Agency is providing. Moreover, this gap could grow to far larger proportions in the long term if it is not adequately addressed.

This world-class delivery of services will become more difficult as the baby boom generation enters its peak disability years and then reaches retirement age starting in 2008. By 2010 Social Security retirement benefit claims are expected to rise by 16 percent and disability claims by 47 percent. For an agency facing a substantial number of retirements in its own workforce and high expectations from customers, that's a great challenge.

It may come as a surprise to both Congress and to Americans that part of Social Security is not wholly separated from the federal budget, but it is not. The administrative costs of running the agency and paying benefits are subject to discretionary spending caps—an on-budget restraint that could keep that agency from preparing for the challenge it will soon face as the baby boomers retire and disability cases soar.

Subjecting the agency's administrative funding to the caps really doesn't make sense. After all, these costs are paid for with workers' payroll taxes from the Social Security Trust Fund—they are not paid for with general revenues. When these payroll taxes are used to pay benefits, they are considered off budget and not subject to the caps. But when the exact same payroll taxes are used to pay the administrative costs that support benefit payments, they are treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, my bill creates a new cap for SSA's administrative appropriations for the two remaining years the caps exist. This is not unprecedented. Congress felt that Social Security's responsibility to do Continuing Disability Reviews was so important, that it exempted those management costs many years ago. Since no caps exist after fiscal year 2002, Social Security administrative expenses will then go off-budget like the rest of the program.

However, to insure the public gets the service they paid for, my legislation still requires the Social Security Administration to go through the appropriations process and to defend that request to both the appropriations and authorizing committees.

Each year, new funding requests will be reviewed based upon the Commissioner's documentation that current and future tax dollars are meeting the mission and performance levels contained in the Agency's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan. Open ended funding without results is not an option. Continued delivery of world-class service, along with ongoing progress on eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse will be demanded first.

I also want the Social Security Administration to be a fully integrated member of the new information age, so my bill provides for technology investment. The agency must submit a comprehensive procurement plan detailing the benefits, risks and returns from the investment. This plan will be updated biannually and GAO will provide the Congress with their assessment and recommendation on SSA's performance to guide our funding decisions.

The way to prepare Social Security for the future is to start now. We have committed ourselves to saving Social Security. Just as important must be our commitment to save the underlying program operation so critical in delivering the service needed by retirees, individuals with disabilities, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my Ways and Means colleague, Mr. CARDIN, for joining me as an original sponsor of this bill and note that this represents another bipartisan effort to

strengthen the Social Security program for current and future retirees. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this important, bipartisan legislation.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, most of America's soldiers are just ordinary people. They are people from all walks of life who are sometimes asked to do extraordinary things. Those of us who haven't served in the armed forces will never know the pain they suffer or the hardships they can be asked to endure.

However, I do want them to know the depth of our gratitude.

For this reason, I'm happy to share with my colleagues a speech by Kootenai County Commissioner Ron Rankin entitled "The Greatest Generation," which emphasizes the sacrifices made by the World War II generation. He calls them this because they lived up to the challenges forced upon them by both our country's worst depression and our greatest war.

Commissioner Rankin knows the sacrifices made by this generation. He learned this as a Marine fighting the Communists and the violent seas at Incheon, Korea. We can never thank this generation enough, but I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to both Commissioner Rankin and the American servicemen who so bravely served our country. They met the challenges forced upon them in our country's hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I commend the example of Ron Rankin to my colleagues, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration "The Greatest Generation" speech.

GREATEST GENERATION

(By Ron Rankin)

Fellow Veterans—Families and Friends of the Greatest Generation: In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."

We . . . American's greatest generation . . . are gathered here today to remember all of those great patriots who stood fast and held the line against tyranny, from the bridge at Concord to the sands of the Persian Gulf, and to say thank you . . . for without their courage, their dedication and their willingness to die for what was right, we would not be here today.

I didn't serve in the Navy but many of my Marine Corps brothers would not be here today were it not for Navy ships bombarding the beaches before the troops landed . . . and for the ships that shelled the enemy lines . . . directed by forward observers on the ground—miles from the ships that targeted the enemy with surgical precision.

Fifty years ago this very week, I climbed down the nets at the Incheon Landing executed by the Navy, fighting 30-foot tides, a landing which became an epic in Navy and Marine Corps history.

Until Korea, my first-hand knowledge of the Navy was troop ships, LST's and LCT's. Later in Korea, two regiments of the First Marine Division were completely surrounded by over 100 thousand Chinese troops on the top of icy mountains at the Chosin reservoir, 78 miles from the sea. . . Ten divisions of Chinese troops had determined to annihilate our Division. We survived, thanks in part to the constant, dawn to dark napalming of our perimeters by fighters many from carriers off the coast . . . keeping the Communist troops at bay while we regrouped for—our bloody fight to the sea.

My fellow Marines and I—members of the "Chosin Few"—owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to the heroes of the United States Navy for our survival. . . Our bond with the Navy was sealed on October 14, 1989 when the guided missile cruiser USS Chosin was christened.

Others we remember today died so that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their legacy carries with it a tremendous burden—the responsibility to so live our lives that we may hold inviolate that for which we bravely fought and for which so many gave their lives . . . our freedom.

Freedom won on distant battlefields and on distant seas can be lost in an instant here at home if we fail to carry on the fight against tyranny.

No one knows better than a Veteran that service to America does not end when you come home from war. We fought for freedom and we've seen our friends die for freedom, but in spite of the great sacrifices of our fallen patriots of the past, we have become a nation morally adrift—without compass or rudder, sacrificing the generations we fought and died for to an enemy we cannot see.

In our wars, fought on the seas and on the fields of battle, the enemy sailed great warships, he wore uniforms and carried weapons—rifles, bayonets, grenades—he was identifiable and we were armed and trained to recognize and defeat him and defeat him we did!

Today, another insidious enemy is already on our shores striking at the very soul of America. This enemy does not wear a uniform or fight with great ships at sea or with bayonets or grenades . . . or sneak attack our fleets at anchor. He is among us. He uses our media to desensitize us against threats from abroad . . . to lull us to sleep to facilitate future Pearl Harbors. He prays on the carnal desires of our communities. He pollutes our children's minds with filth and their bodies with drugs. He has taken God out of our institutions and desecrates our flag with the approval of our government. There are no distant drums of war signaling this peril—no Pearl Harbors, no foxholes, trenches, bayonets or grenades in this war. The ammunition is knowledge, which we must all continue to seek . . . and the battle is being fought in the city halls, the court-houses, the legislatures, and in the Congress, to rebuild our decaying military, to return dignity and respect to our men and women in uniform living on food stamps.

I say to you here today, you patriots and protectors of our progeny and their heritage, as Patrick Henry stated, "the enemy is in the field . . . why stand we here idle?"

Thank God we survived the wars. Thank God that our fallen buddies . . . patriots all . . . cared enough about our country and its future that they laid down their lives to preserve it, and thank God that with His help, we may have the strength and determination to carry on and make this again the "One Nation Under God" for which we served and our buddies died. It is a tremendous responsibility, but we owe it to them and to future generations.

The future begins today, the future begins with us. May God continue to bless America and may He bless us all in our righteous endeavors.

For this I ask humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEROLD L. SCHIEBLER

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Dr. Gerold L. Schiebler, the Associate Vice President for Health Affairs for External Relations at the University of Florida Health Science Center and a Distinguished Service Professor with the Department of Pediatrics (Cardiology). Dr. Schiebler is a very special doctor and advocate for health-care issues who I am sorry to say is retiring by the end of the year after 40 years of unselfish service to children, to medicine, to the University of Florida Health Science Center and to Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida.

Let me start off by telling you a little bit about this man's remarkable background.

Growing up, Dr. Schiebler probably never realized that he was destined to be a great physician. He started off—like so many great Americans—quite modestly. In fact, as recounted by his longtime friend Clarence Burkey, at the completion of the meal at a recent awards dinner, the person seated next to Dr. Schiebler said, I can tell that you are a child of the depression era because you 'cleaned up' your plate." That begins to describe the early years of a first generation child of German immigrants. They lived in and were a part of the Borough of Hamburg, a small middle class Pennsylvania-German community, where frugality, pride, and self-sufficiency were the rules.

In high school he was an excellent student, class president and class valedictorian. Years later and as part of her life recollections, former grade school principal, Ella Scholl, remarked that he was "the smartest person that had ever graduated from Hamburg High." Mrs. Scholl's late husband had also been the high school principal for many years. Dr. Schiebler attended Franklin and Marshall College where he graduated magna cum laude and then graduated from Harvard Medical School. His medical internship and residency were at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Mayo Clinic. While in residency at the Mayo Clinic, Clarence Burkey recalls, "During a visit to Hamburg, Gerold called at the home of my mother to inquire of my whereabouts. He noticed that there was something medically wrong with her. He looked at her medication and then told her that she was taking the wrong thyroid medicine. That visit added more than a decade to her life."

This was clearly only the beginning of what would be a very long and distinguished career for the 72-year-old physician.

Throughout his medical career, Dr. Schiebler was an influential member of numerous professional societies, including the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society. He also wrote or co-wrote 86 peer-reviewed articles published in medical

journals, authored four books and wrote 10 chapters for inclusion in other medical texts—predominantly on the subject of cardiac disease in children. As his published writings make clear, over time, he truly became an expert in his field.

But he also became much more than that. As he grew into the role of teacher and mentor, he became an expert at creating experts. Many of his former faculty members are proof of his ability and commitment to helping younger colleagues grow and succeed. Today, many are chairmen or deans at institutions throughout the country.

In fact, you can even say that his 17-year tenure as the Chairman of Pediatrics at the University of Florida was legendary. Residents joked that he could read an EKG and then be able to tell the patient's age, hometown and referring physician!

Dr. Milton Morris, Director of Governmental Relations at the University of Florida, said he has learned a great deal from Dr. Schiebler over the years. "He was a mentor to me and he taught me how to be a mentor. He taught me the advantage of investing in the future," Dr. Morris said. "He has a love of, and faith in, medical students. He provided students with experience in politics, in the medical profession and encouraged them to become contributing members of society."

I had the pleasure of getting to know a 21-year-old University of Florida medical student this summer who considers herself one of Dr. Schiebler's biggest fans. Joy Kunishige interned in my Washington office this summer after coming to me highly recommended by Dr. Schiebler—a man she says will always have a very special place in her heart.

Despite his many accomplishments, Joy says, Dr. Schiebler makes time to help and support aspiring students.

"I have no idea how to thank Dr. Schiebler for all he has done for me," Joy said. "I always tell him, 'please let me know how I can help you.' The last time I said this he said, 'When you're in a position to do so, someone else will come and ask you for the same thing. You can return the favor then.'"

Former student turned Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs Dr. Robert T. Watson says, "Dr. Schiebler is easily one of the most amazing people I have ever known. He possesses the ability to keep track of an infinite number of things and has a deep and sincere commitment to medical education. I don't know anyone else like that. I don't think a team could replace him."

Ann Groves, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Schiebler for 25 years, agrees. She said, "He can generate more work in five minutes than a team can in five months and while Dr. Schiebler is telling us what to do, he is also writing it down and doing it!"

He is also well known for his uncanny ability to remember details about people. He knows your middle name. He knows where your parents grew up. He just knows. He has an ability to make everyone feel special and important. These are qualities that have enabled him to succeed and develop great personal and professional relationships wherever he goes.

Part of the reason for this success is his ability to be quick on his feet—literally. Rarely one to take an elevator, he walked the halls of the Florida State Capitol so much—up and down flights of stairs—that his wife, Audrey, once bought him a pedometer. When asked

where the pedometer went, Dr. Schiebler replied, "When I looked how far I had walked, I threw it away!" Each legislative session, Ann Groves said, he walks so much he wears out a couple pairs of shoes.

With this energy and spirit, he has lobbied for Shands Hospital, the University of Florida Health Science Center, and, most fervently and constantly, for children. Both Dr. Schiebler and his wife, Audrey, have fostered a lifelong interest in children's health issues. Dr. Schiebler was an early advocate for providing health insurance for children from birth. Before this landmark legislation, insurance companies did not offer coverage to children until they were 60 to 90 days old. Since his pioneering advocacy, all other states have similarly expanded insurance coverage. "As Director of Children's Medical Services (CMS), he introduced the concept of CMS covering the full spectrum of chronic health diseases in children. He established the modern CMS program as the most powerful program for children with special health care needs in the country," comments Dr. Arlan Rosenbloom, Assistant Medical Director of CMS and University of Florida Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics.

As a trained and skilled medical doctor with political intellect and wherewithal, Dr. Schiebler's deep concern and knowledge of the issues have enabled him over the years to become an effective champion for children and the University of Florida.

In the words of the man chosen to succeed Dr. Schiebler following his retirement, Dr. Richard Bucciarelli said, "In addition to the advocacy and vision Dr. Schiebler has for kids, he was—and still is—an outstanding and caring physician. He brings a unique combination of a practicing physician who has a knowledge of the legislative process. Both of these skills make him very credible in both arenas," said Dr. Bucciarelli, who is the Assistant Vice-President for Health Affairs for External Relations and a professor of Pediatrics at the UF College of Medicine.

Dr. Schiebler's hard work and many accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.

In 1991, Dr. Schiebler became the only person from the University of Florida to be accepted into the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine while being on the faculty of the University of Florida College of Medicine. In the academic world, this is a very high honor.

He has also been recognized in many other distinguished ways.

The District III Children's Medical Services Center bears his name, an honor bestowed upon him by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. This was a rare happening as buildings are not typically named for the living. The exception was made possible by an unusual vote of the Florida State Legislature in 1990.

Last year, he received yet another honor when Florida Governor Jeb Bush proclaimed him the Children's Medical Services, Pediatrician of the Decade. The proclamation reads, "Whereas it is crucial that health care programs are developed to meet the needs of children, including children with special health care needs; and Whereas, the development of these programs requires leadership, direction and advocacy; and . . . Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D. has dedicated his professional career to such leadership, direction and advocacy for Children's Medical Services programs . . ."

The Florida State Legislature also gave Dr. Schiebler a grand send off to his retirement before concluding the session.

In a House Resolution passed by the 118 Members present, H.R. 9135 outlined his many accomplishments. In one section, the resolution reads, "Whereas, the recipient of awards too numerous to set forth in its entirety, Dr. Schiebler has the distinction of being the only individual to receive both the Abraham Jacobi Award and the Doctor Benjamin Rush Award during any one year, has had an Eminent Scholar's Chair in Pediatric Cardiology named for him at the University of Florida, and has had the Gerold L. Schiebler Lectureship established in his honor. . . . That the Florida House of Representatives pauses in its deliberations to honor the distinguished Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D. . . ."

The Florida Senate Resolution "commending Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D., for his contributions to the health and welfare of children in this state" was equally complimentary.

A portion of the Senate Resolution reads, ". . . Gerold L. Schiebler's efforts have resulted in the creation of Children's Medical Services, infant metabolic screening, infant hearing screening, regional neonatal and perinatal intensive care centers, poison control centers, insurance coverage for babies at birth, and numerous other programs. . . . That the Florida Senate commends Gerold L. Schiebler for his dedication and accomplishments in providing better health care for the children of this state."

And, just last month, out of respect and appreciation to Dr. Schiebler, his peers honored him at the Annual Alumni meeting by choosing him to become one of the first three individuals designated as an Honorary Alumnus of the University of Florida College of Medicine.

In the Florida Senate, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Schiebler on dental school appropriations, tort reform and children's issues. In that time, I learned that his relationships with legislators was as much about his commitment to helping people as it was about his commitment to his legislative goals. If you needed advice or help about a medical problem for yourself or your family or if you had a constituent who could not get care, you would call Dr. Schiebler. You could send a child without health insurance up to Gainesville and leave a message on his answering machine on Sunday night. You knew he would open the health center's doors on Monday morning. In many cases, he saved people's lives.

Since entering Congress, we have continued to work together on the Patients Bill of Rights, healthcare reform and the Graduate Medical Education Program. We most recently secured federal funding for the creation of the Brain Institute at the University of Florida. The multi-million dollar building now houses magnet systems and the largest breadth of multidisciplinary talent focused on the nervous system.

On a more personal note, he has been very supportive of me and my family. Dr. Schiebler was a great help when my husband John was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. We took John up to Shands when John started to go through the dialysis procedures. He was there when John had a transplant. I remember sleeping in my car one night while John was in the ER and the next day Dr. Schiebler asked, "Why didn't you call me?" He was helpful to me and continues to be.

It's very hard to completely sum up all of Dr. Schiebler's accomplishments and contributions because he's done so much for so many people, but I will make an attempt. Dr. Schiebler is an advocate for children. He is an advocate for Shands Hospital and the University of Florida Health Science Center. He is an advocate for the American Medical Association. He is an advocate for me. He is an advocate for his family. He credits his wife, Audrey, for shaping and inspiring his every accomplishment, including the couple's six children—Mark, Marcella, Kristen, Wanda, Bettina and Michele—and their 17 grandchildren.

Perhaps his character is best described by his colleague, Dr. Rosenbloom: "He never, never did anything for Gerry Schiebler. He always acted for the kids for whom he felt responsible, for his family or for his academic family. Never self-serving, he is the most unselfish, caring person of power you will ever meet."

I couldn't agree more.

Thank you Dr. Schiebler for your many years of service to me, to the University of Florida Health Science Center, to Shands Hospital and to the people of Florida. You will be missed!

MEDICARE PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES RESTORATION AND INTEGRITY ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to restore a benefit in Medicare that has been destroyed. A benefit that is needed by about 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries who need outpatient mental health services to maintain their functional capacity and live lives that are as normal as possible. It is a benefit that was put into Medicare in 1990, but has now been almost completely eliminated by administrative actions of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) that I believe have been and continue to be illegal. I have conveyed my concerns to HCFA several times, but without effect.

The history of this benefit is truly sad. In a report issued in January 2000, the GAO concluded that "HCFA's implementation of the partial hospitalization benefit was not adequate." The GAO report details the mismanagement of this benefit by HCFA from the beginning, and I believe that the mismanagement continues to this day. That is why I am introducing legislation today to stop the mismanagement and restore this benefit as the Congress intended it to be.

Before 1990, Medicare covered partial hospitalization services provided by hospitals. Recognizing a broader need for outpatient mental health services, the Congress expanded the benefit in OBRA 1990 to include services provided by Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) as defined in Section 1913 of the Public Health Service Act.

The Congress was quite clear in its intent for this benefit, and the precise language of the statute reflects that intent. Section 1861(ff)(2)(I), as amended by Section 4162 of OBRA 1990, specifies the partial hospitalization benefit as services that are:

"Reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or active treatment of the individual's condition reasonably expected to improve or maintain the individual's condition and functional level and to prevent relapse or hospitalization, and furnished pursuant to such guidelines relating to frequency and duration of services as the Secretary shall by regulation establish (taking into account accepted norms of medical practice and the reasonable expectation of patient improvement)."

The Congress did not know the specific eligibility requirements needed for this benefit, nor did it know the specific services that should be provided for each patient, depending on the functional status of the individual. Therefore, the Congress mandated that the Secretary promulgate regulations establishing eligibility guidelines and covered services—taking into account accepted norms of medical practice. The Congress expected—and required—the Secretary to promulgate regulations so that the public would have an opportunity to comment and participate in defining and establishing the standards for this benefit.

In March 1992, HCFA issued a manual instruction (IM 205.8)—not a regulation—that included the following language:

"In general, to be covered, the services must be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or active treatment of a patient's condition. The services must not be for the purpose of diagnostic study or they must be reasonably expected to improve or maintain the patient's condition and to prevent relapse or hospitalization.

It is not necessary that a course of therapy have, as its goal, restoration of the patient to the level of functioning exhibited prior to the onset of the illness, although this may be appropriate for some patients. For many other psychiatric patients, particularly those with long term, chronic conditions, control of systems and maintenance of a functional level to avoid further deterioration or hospitalization is an acceptable expectation of improvement. "Improvement" in this context is measured by comparing the effect of continuing treatment versus discontinuing it. Where there is a reasonable expectation that if treatment services were withdrawn the patient's condition would deteriorate, relapse further, or require hospitalization, this criterion is met.

Some patients may undergo a course of treatment which increases their level of functioning but then reach a point where further significant increase is not expected. Continued coverage may be possible even though the condition has stabilized or treatment is primarily for the purpose of maintaining the present level of functioning. Coverage is denied only where evidence shows that the criteria discussed above are not met, e.g., that stability can be maintained without further treatment or with less intensive treatment."

Although this definition of the partial hospitalization benefit was not issued through regulations as required by the law, at least it was consistent with the intent of the law in substance, and the mental health community did not complain.

On February 11, 1994, the Secretary published an Interim Final Rule implementing the partial hospitalization benefit. The language of the Interim Final Rule mirrored the language of the statute:

"(a) Partial hospitalization services are services that—

(1) Are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or active treatment of the individual's condition;

(2) Are reasonably expected to improve or maintain the individual's condition and functional level and to prevent relapse or hospitalization; and

(3) Include the following:" (list of services).

This Interim Final Rule did not do what the Congress expected—it did not provide clear eligibility and coverage guidelines, taking into account accepted norms of medical practice. However, it did at least implement the partial hospitalization benefit through regulations, as required by the statute. Following publication of this Interim Final Rule, the 1992 manual issuance continued in force providing more specific instructions and guidelines.

Because HCFA did not involve the mental health community in establishing eligibility and coverage guidelines, HCFA's rules were inadequately defined and unclear. The GAO reported that:

"HCFA initially gave its contractors little guidance on, or explanation of, the program beyond the implementing language of OBRA '90. As a result, contractors struggled to understand the parameters of the partial hospitalization benefit in the first years it was in effect. Our discussions with contractors and HCFA regional offices show that contractors raised concerns over such issues as:

- whether partial hospitalization could cover organic conditions such as Alzheimer's, which are unlikely to improve;
- whether the benefit was available to only those patients with previous psychiatric treatment, or even further limited to only those who had previously been psychiatric inpatients;
- which specific services could be billed to Medicare as partial hospitalization services;
- how frequently services had to be delivered for Medicare to consider a beneficiary's treatment program as partial hospitalization; and
- the level of physician involvement required for services provided to the patient."

Without clear eligibility and coverage guidelines, HCFA invited fraud and abuse into the program. Expenditures for the benefit mushroomed, and HCFA's contractors began to notice claims for large amounts. For example, GAO reported that a CMHC in Washington came to the attention of its fiscal intermediary because of claims in excess of \$10,000 per beneficiary per month. That CMHC operated residential board and care facilities with live-in aides who assisted residents with everyday needs, such as cooking, cleaning, and transportation. The CMHC was billing Medicare up to \$100 per hour, per patient, for these services. Another example GAO reported was in Montana, where CMHCs interpreted the partial hospitalization benefit to mean that all CMHC services were covered, and were submitting claims for day care services provided by the CMHC. Other examples reported by GAO include:

- Day care and geriatric care programs were being billed to Medicare as partial hospitalization.
- Arts and craft activities were being billed as occupational therapy or patient education.
- Family counseling services were being billed when there was not evidence of family member participation.
- Long-term psychiatric patients with controlled symptoms were being monitored in partial hospitalization programs for years.

GAO reported that in 1994, one HCFA regional office expressed its concerns about lack of understanding of the partial hospitalization benefit and perhaps misrepresentation of the benefit, but HCFA did not follow up on the concern. By 1995, another HCFA regional office became alarmed about the rapid increase in applications received from new CMHCs, particularly when telephone calls and site visits to CMHCs already participating in the program reached disconnected telephone numbers, private residences, and nonmedical businesses. Still, HCFA did not issue regulations defining the requirements for the facilities and has not issued such regulations to this day. In a statement at a Congressional Town Hall meeting on CMHCs in Houston in March 1999, a representative of the CMHCs stated: "I am not aware of any other Medicare provider that is certified and regulated in the absence of regulations, based upon shifting standards set out in internal transmittals. The provider community for some time has advocated for formal rulemaking to develop clear and measurable certification standards with industry, clinician and patient input."

Costs of the partial hospitalization benefit mushroomed. In 1993, costs of the benefit were about \$60 million; in 1994, about \$105 million; and in 1995, \$145 million.

Finally, HCFA acted. In July 1996, HCFA issued another manual instruction (Transmittal A-96-2) that severely narrowed the coverage criteria for the partial hospitalization benefit as follows:

"Partial hospitalization may occur in lieu of either:

- Admission to an inpatient hospital; or
- A continued inpatient hospitalization.

Treatment may continue until the patient has improved sufficiently to be maintained in the outpatient or office setting on a less intense and less frequent basis. This is an individual determination."

In my view, neither the process nor the substance of this new mandate is consistent with the law. HCFA issued this new limitation on the benefit through a manual instruction, not a regulation, in clear violation of the law. Medicare law requires in not one, but two places that the Secretary publish regulations defining this benefit. First, as I mentioned previously, section 1861(ff) requires that the Secretary publish regulations defining the partial hospitalization benefit, and section 1871 requires the Secretary to publish regulations for all Medicare policy. Indeed, section 1871(a)(2), which was enacted in 1965 in the original Medicare statute, provides:

"(2) No rule, requirement, or other statement of policy (other than a national coverage determination) that establishes or changes a substantive legal standard governing the scope of benefits, the payment for services, or the eligibility of individuals, entities, or organizations to furnish or receive services or benefits under this title shall take effect unless it is promulgated by the Secretary by regulation under paragraph (1)."

I find it troubling that those charged with enforcing the law ignore the law and proceed as though the law does not apply to their actions, but only to the actions of others. We must change the culture in HCFA and in HHS that repeatedly issues manual instructions in violation of the law.

The substance of the 1996 HCFA ruling was also inconsistent with the law. Nothing in sec-

tion 1861(ff) limits the partial hospitalization benefit to services "in lieu of either:

- Admission to an inpatient hospital; or
- A continued inpatient hospitalization."

However, in issuing this new ruling, HCFA relied on a technical inconsistency in the statute. Although the partial hospitalization benefit is defined in section 1861(ff), section 1835(a)(2)(F) provides that a physician must certify that the individual would require inpatient psychiatric care in the absence of such services. Despite HCFA's February 11, 1994 regulation to the contrary, HCFA issued a manual instruction limiting the benefit to the level of the physician certification requirement provided in section 1835.

Based on the new HCFA instruction that severely limited the benefit, HCFA and the Inspector General began intensive investigations of partial hospitalization claims, and not surprisingly, they found that high percentages of the claims did not meet the new standards. When HCFA severely restricted the benefit, programs suddenly found themselves out of compliance. HCFA and the Inspector General then proclaimed that there was widespread "fraud and abuse" in the partial hospitalization benefit. HCFA has been seeking repayments of substantial amounts paid to mental health programs that had been operating on the basis of the earlier published regulation and the manual instructions that were consistent with the regulation and the law.

We need to refocus our attention on the beneficiaries who use the partial hospitalization benefit. In 1997, about 88,000 Medicare beneficiaries were using this benefit. About 60 percent of them were disabled beneficiaries, under the age of 65, and about 60 percent of them were dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The beneficiaries who need and use this benefit are among the poorest and most disabled beneficiaries in the entire Medicare program. They need our help and our protection, and they need these services.

My record of fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare is long. I hate fraud. We must do everything we can to eliminate fraud in Medicare, including any fraud in the partial hospitalization benefit. But the way to eliminate fraud is not to eliminate the benefit itself. By that standard, it would be easy to eliminate all fraud in Medicare. We would simply eliminate the program! No, instead, we must take steps to address those areas of the benefit where fraud has been found, but we must also restore this benefit for those Medicare beneficiaries who need it.

Today, I am introducing legislation, "The Medicare Partial Hospitalization Services Restoration and Integrity Act of 2000," that would restore the partial hospitalization benefit as the Congress intended, while also taking steps to limit fraud in the benefit.

First, the bill would require a face-to-face visit with a physician to certify the need for the services.

Second, the bill would tighten the language regarding "individual activity therapies" ((ff)(2)(E)), using limits already in the statute for other approved services (requiring the services to be directly related to the therapy program).

Third, the bill would tighten the survey and certification requirements in ((ff)(3)) for community mental health centers.

And fourth, the bill would correct the technical flaw in the statute, which HCFA has used

to limit the benefit, making the physician certification language under section 1835 the same as that defining the benefit in section 1861(ff).

To address HCFA's lack of publishing regulations, the bill would require a negotiated rule making process to define the benefit, establish quality of care standards, and establish survey and certification standards for CMHCs.

I am introducing this bill now so that interested parties can study it over the adjournment period and suggest improvements. I will reintroduce the bill early in the new Congress, with appropriate refinements. For the sake of some of the most vulnerable in our society, I hope we can enact this kind of legislation early in 2001.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, pipeline safety is literally a matter of life and death. Legislation this important must be crafted carefully, allowing for the input of every member of Congress, since pipeline safety impacts every American community. Legislation this important must be brought through committee and to the Floor of the House of Representatives in an inclusive, nonpartisan manner. Sadly, this was not the case for yesterday's consideration of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act.

S. 2438 faced significant opposition from consumer, environmental and labor groups, and was opposed by my own committee leadership. The bill did not ensure that pipelines would be inspected and did not do enough to help local emergency management agencies react to pipeline emergencies. Given these, and other concerns, and given the considerable opposition the bill faced, S. 2438 should not have been brought to the floor as a suspension calendar item. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the suspension calendar is meant to move noncontroversial, routine items. As such, these items are given little time for debate and no opportunity for amendment.

Had S. 2438 been brought for a vote in a more open manner, it could have won my support. It is my sincerest hope that the Republican leadership will take pipeline safety seriously and bring S. 2438 back to the House of Representatives in a manner that permits its further debate and possible improvement.

STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DATABASE PROTECTION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to discuss the importance of legal protection for databases. Databases are extremely important to the continued growth of our hightech based economy. Within databases—organized collections of information—

lie the basic tools of the Information Age. The continued development of new and exciting database products depends on adequate legal protection from piracy. Over the past two Congresses we have grappled with the scope of protection that should be afforded database producers. We have worked hard to produce a well balanced approach. Unfortunately, we were unable to bring the development of this legislation to a close in time for consideration before this body. I believe that addressing this issue must be a priority for the 107th Congress and will do all that I can to facilitate passage of database protection legislation in the next Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, October 10, 2000, I was unavoidably detained due to airline mechanical problems. Had I been present, I would have voted the following ways:

No on rollcall No. 519, S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Act.

Yes on rollcall No. 520, H.R. 208, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

Yes on rollcall No. 521, H.R. 762, Lupus Research and Care Amendments.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES HILL FOR 25 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Jim Hill, who is celebrating 25 dedicated years of government service.

I've known Jim since he worked as my chief of staff when I served in the Wisconsin State Senate in the 1970s. He came to the job an intelligent, energetic, enthusiastic and strongly principled young man, and quickly became a highly respected name in public service in the Wisconsin legislature. Jim's impressive understanding of issues made him a trusted and valued advisor during my years on the Senate's Joint Finance Committee, and his continued support was critical to my decision to run for Congress in 1984.

Jim remained in Wisconsin, and joined the staff of Wisconsin's Dane County Executive Jonathan Barry, where he gained experience in the challenges of county government. But soon he and I had the opportunity to work together again, this time in Washington, DC, where he became my administrative assistant (AA). Jim was a fast learner and an outstanding AA, quickly developing expertise on a myriad of issues while providing strong leadership to a young and inexperienced DC staff.

And although I know that Jim enjoyed the challenges of working on Capitol Hill, his first

priority was and is his family. Knowing that the job of AA was incredibly demanding and meant frequent long hours, Jim decided to go back to Wisconsin, where he joined the staff of the City of Milwaukee's Department of City Development and later worked for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Jim's strong sense of social justice and his outstanding management skills then led him to his current employment with Milwaukee County's Department of Human Services, where he serves as administrator of the Division of Management Services. And, after 25 years of public service, he remains a well-respected and active member of our community, a man of unquestioned integrity and dedication.

And despite holding positions of enormous responsibility, Jim has always maintained a healthy balance between his job and his family life. He is a dedicated father of two wonderful and talented sons, Patrick (who I am proud to say is my godson) and Daniel. He's also a devoted and loving husband to his wife, Christine.

Throughout the past 25 years, Jim has remained one of my closest and most valued friends. He's always been there for me, in good times and in bad, and has been a trusted advisor and an ardent, vocal and hard-working supporter. I thank him for his friendship, and commend him for 25 years of outstanding service to our community, our state, and our nation. Congratulations, Jim!

CONGRATULATING THE AFRICA BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Africa Bureau of the Department of State for leading a successful campaign against the candidacy of the government of Sudan to the rotating seat of the United Nations Security Council.

On October 10th the United Nations voted 113-55 in favor of Mauritius over Sudan to take a seat on the Security Council. I would like to single out Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr. Susan E. Rice, for her courage, determination, and hard work in this campaign. Dr. Susan Rice has stood firm against the brutal dictatorship of the National Islamic Front government in Sudan. In that light, she has exemplified the leadership ability that is required and needed to move those countries on the African continent toward good governance and democratic reform.

For the last five years, both at the National Security Council and the Africa Bureau of the Department of State, she consistently and tirelessly fought for the helpless and the innocent victims of the NIF regime.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MOULTRIE "MOOT" TRULUCK, III

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute

to Mr. John Moultrie "Moot" Truluck, an outstanding public servant and friend. In celebration of his dedication and hard work. Earlier today, he was honored with the John M. "Moot" Truluck Highway in Lake City, South Carolina in the Sixth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent.

Moot was born in Lake City, South Carolina. He was educated in the public schools and graduated from Lake City High School in 1963. He continued his academic career at the University of South Carolina, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing in 1968.

From 1968 to 1975, Moot served as an educator, administrator, and coach in Florence County, District 3. For twenty-three years, he labored and toiled in the fields, growing tobacco, corn, soybeans and wheat, significantly contributing to South Carolina's agricultural economy. Moot has served in several capacities in the agricultural industry; both as President and Secretary of the South Carolina Tobacco Warehouse Association, Incorporated; President and Chairman of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association, and owner/operator of Partner, Planters, Growers, and Golden Leaf Warehouse.

Moot has served tirelessly and exhibited strong leadership skills as he ably represented the interests of fellow colleagues and local residents as Mayor Pro Tempore of the Lake City County Council. He represented the Twelfth Judicial District as a member of the Department of Transportation Commission, served as Chairman of the Florence County Transportation Committee. Currently, he serves as a member of the Department of Transportation Commission, representing the Sixth Congressional District that comprises seventeen counties.

Moot's community service reaches from his church, area schools, to local businesses. He has served on the advisory boards of First National Bank, South Carolina National Bank, and Bank of America-Florence. He held previous board positions including Carolina Academy, Florence County Board of Health, and Lake City Development Cooperation.

Moot is married to the former Carol Ann Matthews and they are the proud parents of two children. Mr. Speaker, please join me and my fellow South Carolinians in honoring John Moultrie "Moot" Truluck, III to his outstanding leadership and devoted public service.

PRESERVING ESSENTIAL ANTIBIOTICS FOR HUMAN USE

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleagues for their recognition of an emerging threat to public health: antibiotic resistance.

All over the world, a silent war is underway between people and infectious diseases. This is not a new struggle. Throughout human history, microbes have preyed on us, and we have fought back. As recently as the 19th century, the average lifespan in Europe and North America was 50 years, and the likelihood of dying prematurely from infectious diseases was as high as 40 percent. With the wide-

spread introduction of penicillin and other antibiotics in the 1940s, we thought we had finally gained the upper hand. Finally, we could cure a whole raft of infectious diseases that routinely took human lives across the whole span of a human lifetime, from infancy, through the prime of life, to old age.

But the struggle is not over. Earlier this year, the World Health Organization issued a warning against antibiotic resistance. Microbes are mutating at an alarming rate into new strains that fail to respond to drugs. We need to develop new antibiotics, but it is too soon to give up the ones we have. By using these precious medications more wisely and more sparingly, we can slow down antibiotic resistance.

We need to change the way drugs are given to people, but we also need to look at the way drugs are given to animals. According to the World Health Organization, about 50% of all antibiotics are used in agriculture, both for animals and plants. In the U.S., livestock producers use drugs to treat sick herds and flocks. They also feed a steady diet of antibiotics to healthy livestock so they will gain weight more quickly and be ready for market sooner.

Many of these drugs are the same ones used to treat infections in people, including erythromycin and tetracycline. Prolonged exposure to antibiotics in farm animals provides a breeding ground for resistant strains of *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Campylobacter*, and other bacteria harmful to humans. When transferred to people through food, they can cause dangerous infections.

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine is to be commended for taking steps to address the contribution of animal drugs to the antibiotic resistance problem. In view of the importance of these activities to human health, I offered an amendment to the agriculture appropriations bill with the goal of increasing CVM's budget for antibiotic resistance by \$3 million. In accepting the amendment, the House for the first time tackled the public health threat from antibiotic resistant bacteria in our food supply.

Today, the House voted to approve the conference report for the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill. I am pleased to note that the report includes an additional \$3 million for work done within the Center for Veterinary Medicine on antimicrobial resistance. I wish to commend my colleagues on the agriculture appropriations committees for recognizing the importance of these activities to public health, with special thanks to the ranking member in the House, my colleague from Ohio.

If we continue to work together, we can come up with solutions to prolong the efficacy of antibiotics used to treat human illnesses, while at the same time ensuring that Americans will continue to enjoy a safe, affordable, plentiful food supply.

TRIBUTE TO JAY R. STROH, DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention today to one of California's most unsung dedicated public servants: Mr. Jay R. Stroh, who has been director of California's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for 17 years, during which time he has professionalized and modernized an extremely important and complex agency.

Jay R. Stroh began his public career as a deputy with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, rising through the ranks to become captain. He was Chief of Police for the City of Inglewood for 10 years, and Chief of Police of El Segundo for four and a half years. He was appointed by Governor Ronald Reagan to the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training, served at the California State University Los Angeles as a member of the Institute Planning Committee on Police Science and Administration, School of Applied Arts and Sciences, and at El Camino College.

Mr. Stroh was first appointed Director of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) by Governor George Deukmejian on February 3, 1983, reappointed by Governor Pete Wilson and again by Governor Gray Davis upon his election in 1999. Respected by the alcoholic beverage industry, law enforcement and community coalitions, Mr. Stroh has received recognition by State legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, as an effective leader.

While he has been Director, Mr. Stroh has turned the ABC into a proactive agency with several innovative programs that brought merchants, law enforcement, youth, community leaders and alcoholic beverage industry members together. Mr. Stroh helped pass legislation elevating the Department's peace officer status to a classification equivalent to the California Highway Patrol. He increased by one-third the field enforcement activities of Department investigators and streamlined and modernized the Department's licensing and investigative procedures.

Mr. Stroh's tenure is believed to be the longest continuous directorship in California state government. His retirement brings to a close 49 years as a public servant to the people of California. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jay R. Stroh for his dedicated service and numerous accomplishments, and in wishing he and his wife, Jackie, good luck in their future endeavors.

LOST OPPORTUNITY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful to me that we could adjourn the 106th Congress without having strengthened our federal hate crimes law to protect victims who are chosen because of their gender, sexual orientation or disability and to allow federal

prosecutors to pursue hate-crime cases if local authorities refuse to press charges.

Unfortunately, hate violence is becoming an all too common occurrence in our communities. That an individual could be so filled with rage for his or her fellow human being is unthinkable—but it has happened in small towns and big cities across this nation and it will continue to happen, until and unless we stand up to bigotry and hate by ensuring that the civil rights of all people are protected. The expanded Hate Crimes legislation that was included in the Senate Defense Authorization bill was just that kind of tool.

The defeat of expanded hate crimes legislation ignores overwhelming public support for this critical civil rights legislation. Since 1998 when an African American man was tied to the back of a truck and dragged to death by white supremacists in Jasper, Texas, several high profile hate crimes have continued to shock our country, including a hate based killing spree that profoundly touched my community during July 4th celebrations in 1999.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse districts in America and I will continue to stand with my constituents against bigotry and hate and actively work to expand and improve the federal Hate Crimes law. We cannot and we should not leave Washington without ensuring that the civil rights of all Americans are honored and protected.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives lost one of our most respected members and the nation lost a lifelong advocate for the homeless and the environment. A true public servant, BRUCE VENTO used his seat in Congress for 24 years to champion programs to eliminate homelessness, increase funding for community investment and economic development, and, of course, to protect our environment.

I had the privilege of serving with BRUCE VENTO on the Banking Committee, where he worked tirelessly to establish the emergency shelters grant program, preserve the Federal Housing Authority, provide increased funding for community development programs, and ensure adequate consumer protection. Those who live in low-income communities, the poor, and the homeless, may not have high-priced lobbyists advocating for them, but they did have BRUCE VENTO. Through his work, he gave a voice to Americans who too often go unheard.

Yesterday, we lost a friend and a colleague. But those Americans whose lives BRUCE VENTO worked so hard to improve lost an advocate and a voice.

My thoughts are with the Vento family, and his constituents in Minnesota. I and the other Members of this body who were fortunate to work with him over the years will miss him greatly.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CHAVEZ-
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday morning this country lost a great individual, a true pioneer in the Hispanic movement as well as in the movement of women in organized labor.

I speak of Linda Chavez-Rodriguez. Daughter of the great Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW), and wife of current UFW president, Arturo Rodriguez.

She began her career at age 11, when she worked in the fields and vineyards to help support her family. She continued her efforts by joining walkouts in 1973 when the California grape workers went on strike. Earning as little as \$3 a week as a farm worker, she often wondered how her family would survive.

As her father's popularity grew, and growers became more aware of his efforts, strong repercussions were felt by the family members. During high school her education was threatened and other students taunted her sisters and her for defending what was moral and just. They were misunderstood and misrepresented. Fellow students believed them to be well off and have many luxuries. Growing up in an extremely worn two bedroom, one bath wood-frame house with 10 family members is not what I call living in luxury.

After high school, Linda's dedication to labor continued through her volunteer work for the UFW, by helping farm workers obtain their union cards and keep their files in order. Soon after that, she followed in her father's footsteps by joining thousands of grape workers in California when they shut down the fields in a bloody strike against the growers. In Detroit she picketed in freezing snow with fire hoses being turned on them, and yet they still fought for what was right. She also made another change in Detroit she met her husband, Arturo Rodriguez.

For the next 14 years, Linda worked along side her husband throughout California. The family fought hard to continue her father's legacy and dedication. Avoiding any type of limelight, she stayed close to her family and continued her work.

In 1990 her family moved back to La Paz where she continued to raise her son and two daughters. After many years of putting her own pain aside, the Lord felt that it was Linda's time to rest.

She leaves a proud legacy and a wonderful family behind. She will never be forgotten.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL
PLUMER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21st, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Woman (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the most outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Philips Exeter Academy and Princeton University summa cum laude.

Mary raised 4 children and became actively involved in many worth-while community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, 5 years after her daughter died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

I want to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

THE DETROIT RED WINGS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a night that many people in Detroit look forward to all year long. Tonight is the Season "Home Opener" in Hockeytown. The Detroit Red Wings open their 75th season, tonight at Joe Louis Arena. The Red Wings, in their 75 years in Detroit, have become more than just a sports team in our hometown, they are a part of the community. There is a reason that Detroit is known as Hockeytown, and it isn't simply our love for the team. Hockey is a part of our lives in Detroit. Many Detroiters remember their first pickup games played on a neighborhood pond with their childhood friends. Our children, with the invention of rollerblades, now play street hockey year round in our neighborhood streets and driveways, or anywhere else they can find a smooth surface. It's not simply our climate, which is conducive to hockey, nor is it our proximity to Canada, the origin of the game, it's partly our attitude, and part our love for the game. But a large part of the reason we are known as Hockeytown is the fact that the Red Wings have helped shape Detroit for the past 75 years.

The Red Wings began in the early 1920's with a group of investors led by Detroiters Charles Hughes. He convinced the Detroit Athletic Club to create a new team for the National Hockey League. They began playing in

Olympia Stadium in 1927, and played there until 1979, when they moved to Joe Louis Arena on Detroit's waterfront. The Detroit Red Wings are known in the NHL, as part of an elite group, "The Original 6". The "Original 6" were the 6 teams in the NHL that played during World War II, when men and finances were devoted to the War effort. Being a part of the "Original 6" has brought much pride and prestige to the Red Wings.

Through their 75 years in Detroit they have earned 9 Stanley Cups, and numerous League Championships. We were most fortunate this last decade to have had a dynasty in Detroit, winning two Stanley Cups and capturing the President's Trophy for winning most games in a season twice, setting a new NHL record, in 1995.

We have had winning seasons and losing seasons, but through it all we have been fortunate to have the Red Wings as a part of our community and I want to thank the Red Wings, and their owner, Mr. Mike Ilitch, for their commitment to Detroit. I want to congratulate them for 75 years in our great city, and I want to wish them luck this year in their quest for the cup. Go Wings!

**HONORING ACCESS COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND FAMILY COUN-
SELING AND THE COALITION ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the mission and accomplishments of the coalition on Domestic Violence on the occasion of their benefit banquet which is being held today at the Bint Jebail Cultural Center in Dearborn, Michigan.

The Coalition on Domestic Violence was formed in 1997 to provide cultural-sensitive services to the community served by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). Recognizing that domestic violence impacts the very fabric of daily life by impairing the education of children, reducing productivity in the workplace, and denying freedom and security to victims and non-victims alike, ACCESS feels strongly that there needs to be a coordinated community approach to stop the violence. Many organizations including law enforcement, healthcare and educational institutions have pulled together to raise awareness about the problem and develop culturally relevant education programs.

It is certainly appropriate that the Coalition on Domestic Violence chose October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to host their banquet which is entitled "Facing Domestic Violence: A Community Stands Together." They are featuring presentations by two very well-known women with important and unique perspectives on this issue. Camelia Anwar Sadat, the daughter of the late Egyptian President and Nobel Peace Prize Recipient Anwar Sadat and his first wife, Ekbal, will share her valuable insights as a survivor of domestic violence. Denise Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, has committed herself to improving the lives of women and children by speaking out on the issue of domestic violence. It is ex-

citing that they will be in Michigan to share their stories.

Domestic violence cuts across ethnic lines, socioeconomic classes and religious backgrounds which makes it essential that we all work together to prevent it from causing more suffering. The Coalition on Domestic Violence is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through a coordinated effort. I commend them for their excellent work and hope that they have a successful and educational banquet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Friday, October 6, 2000, and Tuesday, October 10, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 514 through 521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 514, "no" on rollcall vote 515, "yes" on rollcall vote 516, "no" on rollcall vote 517, "yes" on rollcall vote 518, "no" on rollcall vote 519, "yes" on rollcall vote 520, and "yes" on rollcall vote 521.

**TRIBUTE TO HANNA RUBBER
COMPANY**

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Kansas City, Missouri's most successful companies. This year the Hanna Rubber Company will celebrate 75 years as one of the nation's leading distributors of quality industrial rubber products and as a corporate leader in our community.

In 1925, after their service in World War I, brothers J.C. and R.J. Hanna returned home to Kansas City, Missouri. Together the two brothers pooled their savings to form a partnership and a business they named Hanna Rubber Company. The Hanna brothers began their new business to fulfill the demand for fast service on select industrial rubber products. J.C. Hanna, now deceased, once reflected on those days when "we only had one desk, answered the phone ourselves, and R.J. would make up the orders, and I would hop the street cars to make the deliveries."

Today James B. Vandergrift, President of Hanna Rubber Company, is in charge of the operations and success of the Hanna Rubber Company. Under James Vandergrift's tenure with Hanna, he has been responsible for raising the company from the ashes of almost a decade ago when the company's headquarters suffered a three-alarm blaze that left little but a few company records kept in a fire-proof safe. On the very same day of this devastating event, Mr. Vandergrift installed phone lines in the basement of his home and with the help of his staff he was able to keep the company's operations going throughout this ordeal. Due to the extreme damage the facilities suffered, one week later the company would say goodbye to its historic headquarters

on Main Street and move into its current offices a few blocks away. The new location would prove to be a blessing in disguise for the company as it provided more space, enabling Hanna Rubber to add new product lines to in turn increase its customer base.

Hanna Rubber has experienced tremendous success since the devastating fire in 1991. In 1999 the company had \$8 million dollars in sales, with this year's sales projected to reach \$10 million. The company now encompasses a large regional, national, and international customer base which includes clients such as: Hallmark Cards, General Motors, Ford Motor Company, and Trans World Airlines. During recent debates in Congress on trade policy, I was proud to use Hanna Rubber Company as an example of a Midwestern company that has benefited from progressive trade policy initiatives. Hanna Rubber Company's prosperity can be attributed to their standard of excellence in the service they provide their customers, employees, and suppliers. James Vandergrift truly believes that the cultivation of positive people relationships at Hanna Rubber Company has been a key to their past accomplishments and future ambitions.

The founding spirit of the Hanna Brothers continues on today in the hearts and minds of Hanna Rubber Company employees who are dedicated to quality, service, long hours, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Hanna Rubber Company for 75 years of service to our community and the world market.

**A TRIBUTE TO MR. LONNIE
THOMPSON**

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. CLYBURN and I rise today to take a moment and recognize Mr. Lonnie Thompson, President of SOPAKCO of Mullins, SC, which has facilities in each of our congressional districts.

Mr. Thompson was recently presented the Colonel Merton Singer Award for outstanding contributions to the Department of Defense. The Colonel Singer Award is the Research & Development Associates for Military Food & Packaging Systems, Inc. (R&DA) most prestigious award for industry. He was selected for this award based on his significant accomplishments in the area of supporting U.S. forces in all locations throughout the world. He has led his company to improve the quality and contents of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), Unitized Group Rations, and other specialized rations. His leadership has placed SOPAKCO into the forefront of supporting military forces.

SOPAKCO was founded in 1943 to package military rations for Allied troops during World War II. Today, SOPAKCO's Packaging division serves military, humanitarian and non-military organizations around the world. SOPAKCO Packaging maintains and operates a packaging plant in Mullins, South Carolina, and a food processing facility in Bennettsville, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Lonnie Thompson's accomplishments are of the highest order and support the needs of the Department of Defense for today and tomorrow. Mr. Thompson's leadership and commitment is what we recognize and honor today.

RECOGNITION OF BILL CHENEY,
NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON
THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL
CREDIT UNIONS

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Bill Cheney, the President and CEO of Xerox Federal Credit Union, headquartered in El Segundo, California, for his recent election to the board of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). I have had the pleasure of knowing Bill for over 16 years, many of which he spent in my congressional district at Security Service Federal Credit Union in San Antonio, Texas. During that time, we spent many years working together on issues that affect the citizens of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. Bill also shares my life-long commitment to supporting all athletes at the University of Texas at Austin.

Even though Bill left San Antonio to become President and CEO at Xerox Federal Credit Union, he continues to keep me updated on credit union views. He even makes it back to Texas from time to time to visit Xerox Federal Credit Union offices. Xerox Federal Credit Union, which has over 73,000 members, serves employees of Xerox Corporation and related companies nationwide through 16 credit union offices in 9 states including California, New York, Illinois, and Texas.

His election to the NAFCU board culminates 15 years of dedicated work in the credit union industry. I congratulate my friend Bill Cheney on his recent election to the NAFCU Board and look forward to continuing to work with him and America's credit unions. I know Bill will be an outstanding voice for credit unions everywhere.

SUPREME COURT SECURITY ACT
OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as indicated by my colleague, H.R. 5136 would make permanent the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court Police to provide security for its Justices, Court employees, and official visitors on and off the Supreme Court grounds. The U.S. Supreme Court Police were first authorized by Congress to carry firearms and protect court personnel and visitors outside Supreme Court grounds in 1982. The statutory authorization was scheduled to terminate on December 29, 1985. In December 1985, the Congress extended such authorization and has done so five additional times in

the subsequent years. The last extension occurred in October 1996, and is set to expire December 29, 2000.

It is clear that the security concerns which gave rise to the original authorization, including threats of violence against the Justices and the Court, will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, I am not aware of any suggestion or concern that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has misused its authority, or should not be entitled to such authority on a permanent basis.

In fact the evidence suggests that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has discharged its responsibilities in an efficient and cost effective manner. For example, the cost of the program has been minimal. The Supreme Court Police work closely with the U.S. Marshal's office to provide security for Supreme Court Justices when they travel outside the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Over the past 4 years, there were 74 requests for Supreme Court Police protection beyond the D.C. metropolitan area at a total cost of \$16,855, or \$4,214 per year.

In light of continuing security concerns, and the Supreme Court Police's record of providing appropriate protection over the past 18 years for the Justices, Court employees, and official visitors, I support making the Supreme Court Police authorization to provide security on and off Supreme court grounds permanent. As a result, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL WEISS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues this evening to recognize the long, distinguished career of Gail Weiss. Gail, who serves so ably now as the Minority Staff Director on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and before that as Staff Director of that Committee, had earlier served as Staff Director of our Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, chaired by my good colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. CLAY. Serving as the Ranking Minority Member of the Post Office Committee at that time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Gail. I found her to be a true professional and I appreciated the time she took to listen to our positions on various issues before our Committee.

We will surely miss having Gail's experience and institutional memory upon which to rely. Gail is one of a dwindling corps of staff who have the ability to put the measures before us into the perspective of earlier legislation enacted to address important issues. Her expertise on postal and civil service issues and those before the Committee on Education and the Workforce have helped us to develop legislative initiatives that address these issues in an effective manner.

I am certain that Gail will continue to be active in a number of areas that are of keen interest to her. I know that our colleagues will also continue to reach out to her for her thoughts on key matters that we deal with in the Congress. I've certainly become fond of both Gail and her husband Jack and wish

them great success, happiness, and good health as they enter this new and rewarding time in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN GARDENS
RESTAURANT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kansas City, Missouri family tradition. Seventy-five years ago a small, family owned business established its roots in the heart of Kansas City. Today, the Italian Gardens Restaurant is a well established and celebrated Kansas City landmark and popular eatery.

The late John Bondon, Sr., first opened the Italian Gardens Restaurant in 1925 with his nephew Frank Lipari. It was a difficult time for the partners and most of the country as the economy collapsed and a world war became a reality. Despite these challenges Italian Gardens persevered and in 1933 the restaurant was able to move to its current location at 1110 Baltimore with the help of a \$1,500 loan from a waitress. John Bondon and Frank Lipari owned only one new pair of shoes worn by whomever was working with the public in the front of the restaurant. When America entered World War II, the Italian Gardens recognized the anti-Italian sentiments present at this time and was forced to temporarily change the name of the restaurant to "The Gardens." The restaurant was available for dinner only since many of the staff was working in the defense industry.

Over the past 75 years, the Italian Gardens has spanned five generations of family proprietorship and attracted a large and loyal following of patrons. The restaurant has attracted a diverse crowd of customers such as Joe Di Maggio, Katherine Hepburn, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and the famed outlays Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. For seventy-five years the Italian Gardens has been known by businessmen, artists, athletes, and neighbors to be a large community table and gathering place where everyone is made to feel welcome and part of the family.

Throughout their rich heritage the Italian Gardens Restaurant has been a significant charitable and civic contributor to our community, including lending the talents and expertise of its executives to critical boards and commissions benefitting the Greater Kansas City Area. The Italian Gardens family includes the now retired Carl DiCapo, John Bondon, president of the restaurant company, and great-nephew of the original co-founder, Bondon's mother, Carolyn Berbiglia, Bondon's wife, Vicki, and his daughter Bianca. The Italian Gardens is a Kansas City landmark that has served as a model of success in our community. It is one of the few longtime family owned operations still present in our region. This cherished local eatery has established a standard of excellence that will continue to be celebrated for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Italian Gardens Restaurant family as it celebrates seventy-five years of service to the Kansas City community.

STARK CALLS FOR FURTHER FDA INVESTIGATION INTO ABUSE OF AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE SYSTEM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I today sent the following letter to the FDA, in support of an investigation of how some of the nation's leading drug manufacturers are using false pricing data to distort the practice of medicine in America. The data in the letter is an indictment of the companies' abuse of the taxpayer and of the patient.

I submit the following letter into the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 10, 2000.

Dr. JANE E. HENNEY,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. HENNEY: I am writing you to supplement my recent letter of October 3, 2000. I would request that any FDA investigation into whether certain drug companies have engaged in conduct that violates FDA rules or regulations take into account the following:

1. *The findings contained in the HHS-OIG report entitled Infusion Therapy Services Provided in Skilled Nursing Facilities (December 1999 A-06-99-00058) Exhibit #1.* The OIG's independent findings provide compelling evidence of the magnitude, cost and public health issues resulting from drug price manipulation of the Medicare program.

The following excerpts from the above referenced OIG report are particularly noteworthy:

"Our review of three infusion suppliers, for the period 1995 through 1998, showed they provided infusion therapy services to Medicare-reimbursed SNFs that were excessively priced and unnecessary." (Page #1)

"At the 22 SNFs, \$4.8 million out of \$9 million in claims reviewed (53 percent) were not medically necessary." (Page #1)

"In addition to the financial effects we noted above, overutilization and overpricing were potentially harmful to the patients. Medical reviewers who were part of our audit concluded that patients receiving unnecessary infusion therapy services were placed at undue risk for complications, including increased risk of infection, fluid and electrolyte imbalance, and medical reactions. Fur-

thermore, in addition, infusion services are invasive procedures that are painful and, when unnecessary, reduce the quality of life."

"Based on a survey of infusion suppliers in Texas, we found that charges for infusion drugs varied widely, from as little as Average Wholesale Price (AWP), which is generally considered a reference price for drugs by the pharmaceutical industry, to more than 20 times AWP." (Page #6)

2. *The public health consequences of the drug pricing manipulation by certain companies for the IV antibiotic Vancomycin, the drug of last resort for many life threatening infections.* Exhibit #2 features an article from Hospital Pharmacist Report entitled Under Attack Vancomycin-resistant S. Aureus Hits U.S. Shores. "The widespread, and often unwarranted, use of antimicrobial agents, particularly vancomycin is a major contributing factor in the emergence of S. aureus with diminished susceptibility to vancomycin." Indeed, as stated in the article, the problem has reached the level where the CDC has called for strict limits on the use of this vital drug. "Published in the MMWR, detailed recommendations for preventing and controlling S. aureus with diminished susceptibility to vancomycin emphasize strict adherence to contact isolation precautions and their recommended infection control practices, *judicious use of vancomycin* . . ." (emphasis added).

Enclosed as composite Exhibit #3 (provided by the industry insider pursuant to a congressional subpoena) is:

1. Listings from the 1995, 1996 & 1999 Red Book for Abbott's generic Vancomycin.

2. Copies of advertisements from Florida Infusion for the years '95, '96 and '99 for Abbott's generic Vancomycin.

The following chart summarizes Exhibit 3:

ABBOTT'S VANCOMYCIN

[1 gm. 10s NDC#00074-6533-01]

Year	Red Book AWP	Red Book DP	Florida infusion true wholesale price	Difference between AWP & true price "The Spread"
1995	604.44 (60.44/1 gm.)		\$8.40/1 gm	\$52.04
1996	628.66 (62.86/1 gm.)	612.90	\$7.95/1 gm	\$54.91
1999	727.82 (72.78/1 gm.)		74.00 (\$7.40/1 gm.)	\$65.38

As the above chart also demonstrates, Abbott actually raised its representations of AWP from 1996 to 1999 while the true wholesale price to providers fell from \$7.95 to \$7.40. Abbott's price manipulation, creating a fi-

nancial incentive for doctors to increase their usage of Vancomycin at a time when America is experiencing a health crisis, is reprehensible conduct and clearly warrants an FDA investigation.

You may question why a major drug company would engage in this deplorable conduct? Abbott's direct benefit from its false price manipulation is demonstrated by data (enclosed as Exhibit #4 provided by the industry insider pursuant to a congressional subpoena) for calendar year 1996 from the State of Florida's Medicaid Pharmacy Program. The data outline Florida Medicaid's reimbursements paid to the customers of Abbott and utilization of Abbott's generic Vancomycin. Abbott maximized sales volume and captured the Florida Medicaid pharmacy market for Vancomycin by causing the Florida Medicaid program to substantially inflate reimbursement to the detriment of Florida's Medicaid Program. As you know, drug companies capture market share and maximize sales volume by concealing true drug prices while falsely representing grossly inflated prices which in turn creates a spread between the providers' costs and the amount of reimbursement paid by Medicaid or Medicare. As a result, Abbott has captured the majority of the market (at least for Medicaid) by creating a financial incentive for doctors to increase their usage of the overprescribed drug (Exhibit #5—prepared by the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units in conjunction with their ongoing investigation).

The insider's evidence demonstrates that providers will purchase and utilize the pharmaceutical manufacturer's product that has the widest spread between the provider's true cost and the reimbursement paid by third parties (including the States' Medicaid Programs and Medicare). For example, 1996 reimbursement demonstrates that the manufacturer which causes the widest spread, benefits from the highest utilization. The pharmaceutical manufacturers Abbott, Fujisawa, Lederle Lilly and Schein all made representations of Wholesaler Acquisition Cost ("WAC") to the State of Florida as illustrated in the chart below. The chart further sets out the number of reimbursed claims, the insider's cost and "the spread" between Medicaid reimbursement and true cost. A review of the chart clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of providers utilize the manufacturer's pharmaceutical with the greatest spread between the true Wholesale Acquisition Cost and the inflated false WAC reported by Abbott.

1996 FLORIDA MEDICAID UTILIZATION FOR VANCOMYCIN HCL 1 GRAM

Company/NDC	True cost \$	Florida Medicaid Reimbursement	The spread	Reimbursement paid by Florida Medicaid	% of market share
Abbott/00074-6533-01	\$7.95	\$58.75	\$50.80	\$381,480.78	83.37
Fujisawa/00469-2840-40	6.42	13.91	7.49	19,023.54	4.16
Lederle/00205-3154-15	3.98	9.36	5.38	21,297.64	4.65
Lilly/00002-7321-10	14.30	13.35	(0.95)	19,096.96	4.17
Schein/00364-2473-91	6.05	12.52	6.47	16,672.18	3.64

It is important to note that Abbott publishes and reports truthful prices for many of its drugs when it does not seek to create a fi-

nancial incentive to the provider. The following attached as composite Exhibit #6 is a

chart specifying numerous drugs for which Abbott reports truthful prices:

ABBOTT LABS 1999 REPRESENTATIONS OF PRICES AND COST AND STATES' MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Drug Strength & Size, NDC# 00074-	Red Book AWP	Bergen Brunswig cost (WAC*)	Provider cost with 7% up-charge	Florida Medicaid WAC + 7%	New York Medicaid AWP-10%
Biaxin 500 MG, 60S NDC#2586-60	\$195.59	\$164.13	\$175.62	175.62 Spread \$0.00	\$176.04 Spread \$0.42 (0.2%).
Cartol 5mg, 100s NDC#166-13	106.18	88.76	94.97	94.97 Spread \$0.00	\$95.57 Spread \$0.60 (0.6%).
Cylert Tablets 37.5mg, 100s NDC# 6057-13	144.84	121.67	130.18	130.18 Spread \$0.00	\$130.36 Spread \$0.18 (0.1%).

ABBOTT LABS 1999 REPRESENTATIONS OF PRICES AND COST AND STATES' MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT—Continued

Drug Strength & Size, NDC# 00074—	Red Book AWP	Bergen Brunswig cost (WAC*)	Provider cost with 7% up-charge	Florida Medicaid WAC + 7%	New York Medicaid AWP—10%
Depakote 250mg, 100s NDC# 6214—11	82.66	69.30	74.15	\$74.15 Spread \$0.00	\$74.40 Spread \$0.25 (0.3%).

* WAC—Wholesaler Acquisition Cost (7 states use WAC for reimbursement).

3. *Examination of another Medicare reimbursed drug further confirms that the drug manufacturers engaging in the price manipulation are correct when they assume that the financial incentives they arrange will increase the usage of their drugs.* Atrovent (Ipratropium Bromide) is an inhalant medication that had al-

most no Medicare utilization while it was under patent and not subject to any generic competition. Sometime in 1997, Atrovent came off patent and became subject to generic competition. Certain manufacturers of the generic form of the drug began to make false price representations to create a finan-

cial inducement. As the chart below indicates, Medicare utilization has gone from \$14,426,108.00 in 1995 to \$253,400,414.00 in 1998. The spread has gone from virtually zero to over 100%!

Year	Medicare Reimbursement amount per unit*	True cost per Medicare unit**	Spread \$	Spread %	Medicare expenditures
1995	\$3.11 (\$0.62/ml)	\$3.11	0.00	0	\$14,416,108
1996	3.75 (0.75/ml)	3.26	0.49	15	47,388,622
1997	3.50 (\$0.70/ml)	2.15	1.35	63	96,204,639
1998	3.34	1.70	1.64	96	176,887,868
1999	3.34	1.60	1.74	108	253,400,424

* Medicare Units were converted from ml's to mg's for the years 1995, 1996 & 1997 (5 ml=1 milligram).

Would you please advise me if the FDA since 1995 has approved any other additional indications that might explain the dramatic increase in the utilization of Ipratropium Bromide. Is there any medical reason for these noted utilization increases?

It is essential that the Health Care Financing Administration and other government reimbursement authorities receive truthful and accurate information from drug manufacturers regarding drugs for which the government reimburses. The evidence uncovered by the Congressional investigation to date reveals a conscious, concerted and successful effort by some drug makers to actively mislead the Health Care Financing Administration and others about the price of their drugs. As the federal agency possessing primary regulatory responsibility with respect to drug makers' representations about their products, I urge the Food and Drug Administration to take immediate action before the present fiscal and public health consequences reach a catastrophic level.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK,
Member of Congress.

WRONG ON KAZAKHSTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a very disturbing Op Ed article by Professor Amos Perlmutter ("More words than deeds on Kazakhstan?" in the Washington Times of October 4, 2000), detailing how the Clinton-Gore Administration has dropped the ball in promoting democracy and respect for human rights in Kazakhstan.

Time after time, Kazakhstan's ruthless and corrupt President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has made promises to Vice President Gore and others in the Administration and has then failed to deliver on those promises. And so as Professor Perlmutter puts it, the Nazarbayev regime continues its campaign of "relentlessly destroying the opposition, closing the free press and involving itself in corrupt schemes."

It should have been possible for the United States, which has had the support of the Or-

ganization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as numerous non-governmental human rights organizations, to insist that Nazarbayev fulfill the promises he made on human rights and free elections as a price for legitimacy in American eyes. Sadly, however, it seems clear that Clinton-Gore Administration has pulled its punches, because it wants oil rich Kazakhstan's support for an oil pipeline that does not go through Russia. What is particularly troublesome in this regard is that the United States should not be turning a blind eye to repression and corruption in order to persuade Kazakhstan to do something that is in its interest in any event.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit Professor Perlmutter's article for the RECORD.

MORE WORDS THAN DEEDS ON KAZAKHSTAN?

(By Amos Perlmutter)

The Clinton-Gore administration relationship with Nursultan Nazarbayev's corrupt dictatorship in Kazakhstan is, once again, making news. Not without reason.

The case is that the administration failed to defend political freedom and free enterprise in Kazakhstan. They talked the talk without walking the walk when it come to challenging the Nazarbayev dictatorship.

Promises from Mr. Nazarbayev went unfulfilled. The administration failed to support the claims of human rights organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the OSCE that the Nazarbayev government is not only failing to undergo democratic changes as a price for support from the United States, but also is relentlessly destroying the opposition, closing the free press and involving itself in corrupt schemes.

The effort to support this regime was conceived in conformity with the American national interest. After all, there are three reasons for U.S. strategic interest in Kazakhstan: oil, nukes and independence. Kazakhstan has been one of the Soviet Union's major oil reserves, and continues to be a most significant oil reserve and also a Caspian littoral state. Josef Stalin made Kazakhstan a Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Independence was the goal of both the Bush and Clinton administrations, to strengthen Central Asia non-Russian Muslim states, and to move them in the direction of democracy and free enterprise. There was a tacit strategic purpose in separating Kazakhstan from Russia's historical impe-

rial linkages (an exercise in futility). Kazakhstan is the most Russified Central Asian state, with close to 30 percent of its population Russians who serve as the main scientific industrial and business elite.

However, the Clinton administration sank into the pool of oil that inadvertently led to the most serious corruption of the Nazarbayev dictatorship by failing to resist the dictatorship. One of the administration's major foreign policy goals was humanitarian intervention to help bring an end to former communist dictatorships in the former Soviet Union and the Balkans.

In fact, the administration conducted a "humanitarian war" in Kosovo. The idea of a humanitarian and exemplary intervention, i.e. support of opposition groups in Kazakhstan, free press, and democracy was sacrificed, unfortunately, to the pool of oil.

The administration was not directly involved in support of the dictatorship. But it failed to vigorously resist the Nazarbayev violation of human rights, dissolution of the Kazakh parliament on two occasions, and above all the closing the only two opposition papers and the rigging of the 1999 elections.

In defense of the administration you could say diplomatic gobbledegook and securing unfulfilled promises from Mr. Nazarbayev was unfortunately subordinated to oil and nuclear strategic policies. The embassy in Kazakhstan continuously reported to the U.S. State Department on Mr. Nazarbayev's violations of human rights.

In fact, the OSCE, human rights groups, non-government organizations (NGOs), and other groups have warned the administration and continuously protested Mr. Nazarbayev's dictatorship and suppression of freedom in Kazakhstan. Leon Fuerth, Vice President Al Gore's national security adviser, and his assistant, Richard Brody, met on Sept. 15, 1999, at the Old Executive Office Building to discuss Nazarbayev to the United States. Attending were several people from the State Department, regional and human rights bureaus, as well as the Human Rights Foundation, and the Kazakhstan 21st Century Foundation.

Mr. Fuerth was on the defensive throughout the meeting, as the various representatives pressed hard the argument that the meeting was a mistake at that time, since Mr. Nazarbayev would interpret it as an endorsement of his behavior. According to one of the participants, Mr. Fuerth was unpersuasive and ineffective in defending the

purpose for the visit of Mr. Nazarbayev to United States.

The issue at stake was Kazakhstan's MiG sales to North Korea and the failure of democracy. When Mr. Nazarbayev promised Mr. Gore the next election "would be better," the OSCE report on the 1999 elections in Kazakhstan were still pending. Mr. Fuerth said at the meeting, "We will adopt its [OSCE's] finding as leverage on Nazarbayev." Mr. Fuerth continued, "Our government has been saying repeatedly, and the vice president personally, pay attention to what the monitors are saying about your, i.e., Nazarbayev's, elections." Mr. Fuerth said Mr. Nazarbayev is "not your poster boy" for democracy and freedom. Mr. Fuerth said, "Gore sees his personal relationship as essential to prodding Nazarbayev toward democracy."

America's goals include, says Mr. Fuerth, "carrying Kazakhstan to a modern self-sustaining state at every level of societal concern. . . . We are into their affairs at an fantastic level of detail, and that is only possible with the political support of Nazarbayev and this [Gore-Nazarbayev] commission and the commitment of the United States to a face-to-face meeting with the vice president."

Mr. Fuerth continued to say the United States must persuade them to "more and more perfect democracy," and he is "perfectly aware of the imperfections." According to Mr. Fuerth, Mr. Gore's message is "Democracy is on the agenda. Democracy is not our idiosyncrasy." He describes Mr. Gore's agenda as follows: "Democracy and elections are essential parts of the relationship Nazarbayev wants with the U.S. Gore will explain why a valid election is indispensable if he [Mr. Nazarbayev] wants the relationship he seeks."

After meeting with the president, Mr. Nazarbayev went back home and continued in his oil-mired practices, human-rights violations and the creation of his position as president for life.

Since Mr. Gore was given the portfolio on Russia and the independent states of the former Soviet Union, the essential difference between what the Cox Report finds in the case of Russia and the administration policy toward Kazakhstan is that in the case of Russia it was mired with good intentions for reform that turned sour because of support for Boris Yeltsin's corrupt, undemocratic government. You cannot tell Russia, a major power, what to do, while the situation in Kazakhstan was totally different.

Not only was the United States in the position to help implement the recommendations for democracy and freedom in Kazakhstan, it coddled the dictator and made no impact whatsoever or follow up on the promises made by Mr. Nazarbayev to Mr. Gore to advance the democracy in Kazakhstan.

In the case of Kazakhstan, the United States was in a stronger position than in Russia, with the support of OSCE, multiple human rights organizations and NGOs, to impose upon the dictatorship to implement their promises made on human rights and free elections as a price for legitimacy in American eyes.

They did not do it. The administration tacitly accepted Mr. Nazarbayev's defense that there is an emergent democracy in Kazakhstan and it is a question of "time."

It seems the Clinton-Gore administration did not try very hard to institutionalize and implement their commitments to democracy, free elections, and an open press in the case of Kazakhstan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Employee Health Benefits Disclosure Act of 2000, a small but important stepping-stone to the consumer-driven health-care marketplace of tomorrow.

This bill addresses an important problem. Today, most workers don't know how much money their workplace health coverage costs. They have no idea. Their employers usually only inform them about the "employee share" of the cost. The employer's share is left invisible.

Also left invisible is the generous taxpayer subsidy given to workplace health benefits under section 106 of the tax code.

Under that section, workers pay no income, payroll, or unemployment taxes on those benefits. Yet employees are almost always unaware of the fact. This is wrong. People have a right to know about the tax benefits they're receiving. They have a right to know how much their labor is really worth.

This bill gives workers that important information. It helps them become more informed employees and better health-care consumers.

How does it do this? It requires employers, who have more than 100 employees, and who provide health benefits, to communicate to their employees at least once a year the amount of the employer's share of the contribution.

This notice must be accompanied with the following sentence: "This contribution is part of your total compensation and reduces your cash wages and other compensation by a like amount." The requirement takes effect January 1, 2005.

I've tried to make the requirement as convenient as possible for employers. They may compute an average, rather than a specific amount per employee. And they may use the most convenient method of communication. They may use a letter, the weekly pay stub, the summary plan description, a slip inserted with the W-2 tax form, or any other reasonable means.

The important thing is not how the information is provided—but that it be provided, and in a clear and understandable form. I confess I'm not happy about imposing a new government mandate on employers. That goes against my grain. It rubs me the wrong way. But in this limited and unique case, I think the benefits far outweigh the costs.

It is good public policy for workers to know how much their labor is worth, and how their compensation is structured. Workers have a right to know this currently invisible information which bears so directly on their well-being and happiness. Employers have a duty to provide it.

Legislation is needed to make sure employers provide it in a clear, consistent, and understandable manner. Hence this bill.

I look forward to a day when health care in America is a true marketplace in which consumers are king, where prices are constantly going down and quality is constantly going up, and where everyone gets the health care he needs when he needs it.

Only consumers can bring such a market into being—only consumers armed with full information.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, having experienced, first hand, a needless pipeline tragedy in Edison, NJ, pipeline safety is of particular concern to me and the other members of our delegation. While I applaud the Senate's efforts to pass comprehensive pipeline safety legislation this year, I remain concerned that their final product would have limited local participation in critical pipeline safety decisions. I have also been contacted by many local officials, representatives from citizens safety groups and environmental advocates who feel that S. 2438 does not adequately address their concerns. Although the legislative process rarely allows for a "perfect" piece of legislation which addresses every concern, the process by which this bill was brought to the House Floor did not allow for any improvement upon the base text. Therefore, I would have voted against this bill and remain hopeful that we will be able to reach some bi-partisan compromise before Congress adjourns.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE STANDIFER, JR.

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Missouri. This year Eugene Standifer, Jr. will be joined by his friends and family to celebrate his 75th birthday.

In 1944, Gene Standifer began his career in public service as a member of the United States Army during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1951. After returning home, he took a job with the U.S. Postal Service as a railway mail clerk sorting mail on a railway mail car traveling between Kansas City, Missouri and Denver, Colorado. While employed as a postal worker, Gene Standifer attended Rockhurst College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Accounting and Economics in 1957. Gene Standifer advanced his career in 1965 with the General Services Administration as a Supervisory Accountant. In 1970 he joined the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Specialist who investigated and enforced fair housing laws and regulations. From 1972 until 1978, Gene Standifer worked for the Environmental Protection Agency as a Regional Equal Opportunity Officer that supervised the Kansas City regional offices. And until his retirement in 1986, Gene Standifer worked for the U.S. Department of

Labor as the Area Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

Throughout his career Gene Standifer has been a great friend to his neighbors in the Kansas City community. He has served as Chairman of the Board for the East Area Community Coalition, President of the Central Citizens Crusade Against Crime, Board Member for the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime and the Urban League of Kansas City, and he is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Gene Standifer was appointed to Commissioner of the Kansas City, Missouri Election Board by Governor Mel Carnahan in 1993. The Kansas City Election Board governance is an essential component to every election that takes place in our city. The Election Board ensures that the election process is fair and accessible to all citizens by providing the opportunity to register to vote, receive absentee ballots, have access to polling stations, and be informed of accurate election results. As Commissioner of the Kansas City Election Board, Gene Standifer has served in a dedicated, professional capacity that has earned him the respect and friendship of his peers and the members of the Kansas City Area political community. He has demonstrated outstanding results through his commitment to promote the democratic process. Gene Standifer's service has been an asset for our community.

As a champion of fairness and equity throughout his professional career, Gene embodies the essence of inclusiveness. He has met the challenges of his life with fortitude and commitment to doing the right thing. His engulfing smile always permeates an occasion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the Standifer family in wishing Eugene Standifer a very Happy 75th Birthday.

**EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, Bruce Vento, who passed away this week. Bruce Vento was a hard working and

extremely effective Member of this body. During his long tenure in Congress, Bruce Vento emerged as a true leader on environmental issues. One of the many legacies he left America was the protection and expansion of the national park system and urban parks.

Bruce Vento represented the very best Congress had to offer. Not only was he an effective advocate on issues vitally important to our nation, he was a vigorous advocate for his district and his native state of Minnesota.

He will be missed.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. God bless Bruce Vento.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the House on official business on Friday, October 6, 2000, and was unable to cast a recorded vote on rollcall 515.

On rollcall 515 I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 612, Waiving Points of Order Against the Conference Report on H.R. 4475, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2001.

**ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
CONFIRMATION**

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the attached statement by the American Jewish Committee, which appeared in The New York Times on October 10, 2000.

ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE

After the dead have been buried, the sirens silenced, and the rubble swept from streets where rioters rampaged, what lessons will have been learned from these recent days of bloody confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis?

Two are essential: When mobs are incited to violence by Palestinian media and political and religious leaders, chaos ensues. And when Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation breaks down because Palestinian police

and militiamen join in the mayhem and turn their guns on Israelis, the level of conflict crosses a terrible threshold, and the toll of suffering soars.

We grieve for the victims of the senseless violence that has erupted in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. We pray for the safe return of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah marauders who stole across the international border from Lebanon.

We reel from the desecration and of destruction of Joseph's Tomb, a holy place, on the Sabbath, by a Palestinian mob and the murder of a pious Jew trying to save sacred Torah scrolls.

We yearn for the peace that will end for both peoples this cycle of needless pain.

With Israel and the Palestinian tantalizingly close to agreement in talks aimed at resolving their bitter conflict, these days of violence fomented by the Palestinians needn't have happened.

Innocent blood needn't have been spilled.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian political and religious leaders had not deliberately overblown a visit by an Israel politician to Jerusalem's Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, and launched a furious campaign of attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers.

It wouldn't have—if a sermon during Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque hadn't called on the Muslim faithful to "eradicate the Jews from Palestine" provoking assaults on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall and eliciting a defensive response by Israel.

It wouldn't have—if the Palestinian Authority hadn't emptied its schools, where Israelis' status as the enemy is continually taught, so that children could be used directly to confrontations with Israeli forces and into harm's way.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah lieutenants in Gaza and the West Bank hadn't ordered waves of armed strikes by paramilitary forces against Israeli targets.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian Authority radio and television hadn't bombarded the airwaves day after day with calls to rise up against Israel.

Finally, the conflict that engulfed Israelis and Palestinians wouldn't have happened if Chairman Arafat had assumed that responsibility of leadership and acted to calm rather than inflame his people.

In the end, there can be no other path for Israel and Palestinians than the path of negotiated peace, based on compromise and the need to bring their conflict to an end.

Acceptable alternatives simply do not exist. For the Palestinians and for Arab leadership across the Middle East, there is no choice but to grasp the long-outstretched hand of Israel, and assuming responsibility for peace.